

Lawson rules out control over credits

Thatcher feels events have proved her right

By Nicholas Wood and David Smith

Mr Nigel Lawson yesterday signalled the Government's determination to hold out against calls for credit controls as a way of dampening the consumer boom responsible for July's £2.15 billion trade deficit.

Opposition calls for their introduction were joined by Mr Michael Heseltine, the former Cabinet minister. He appeared to take the lead in voicing backbench Tory unease about the extent of the nation's plunge into the red.

Meanwhile, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's problems multiplied in the City as the pound fell in spite of Thursday's emergency raising of

base rates from 11 to 12 per cent.

Dealers said that Mr Lawson's aim of holding rates at the new level could be thwarted by the weakness of sterling. The consensus was that rates will have to rise further, reaching 13 per cent initially.

The Bank of England stepped in to support sterling but failed to prevent a fall of nearly three pence to DM3.1384, and by half a cent

Sir John Egan, chairman of Jaguar, revealed dismal half-year profits yesterday, halved from £45.7 million to £22.5 million, and warned that full year results for 1988 would be below those of 1987. Jaguar suffered from the impact of the strong pound in overseas markets and also experienced a 9 per cent drop in demand for its cars in the US.

options, which also include emergency tax increases.

"The Chancellor has ruled out anything other than interest rates and we could see much higher interest rates", Mr Neil MacKinnon, economist at Chase Manhattan Securities, said.

Mr Lawson was speaking in the knowledge that he has the backing of the Prime Minister in rejecting credit controls.

One of her first acts on coming to power in 1979 was the scrapping of exchange controls, and the policy of allowing a free flow of money across national borders is a central article of her free-market faith.

However, the Prime Minister is understood to regard the alarm over July's figures as a vindication of her opposition earlier in the year to the Chancellor's sterling policy.

She believes that Mr Lawson's previous policy of pegging sterling to the German mark and cutting interest rates to as little as 7.5 per cent in early June to hold down the pound created the conditions for the credit boom that has led to City experts talking of an economic problem.

Nevertheless, senior Conservatives believe that the events of the past 48 hours have "tarnished" the Chancellor's reputation and increased the probability that his next Budget will also be his last.

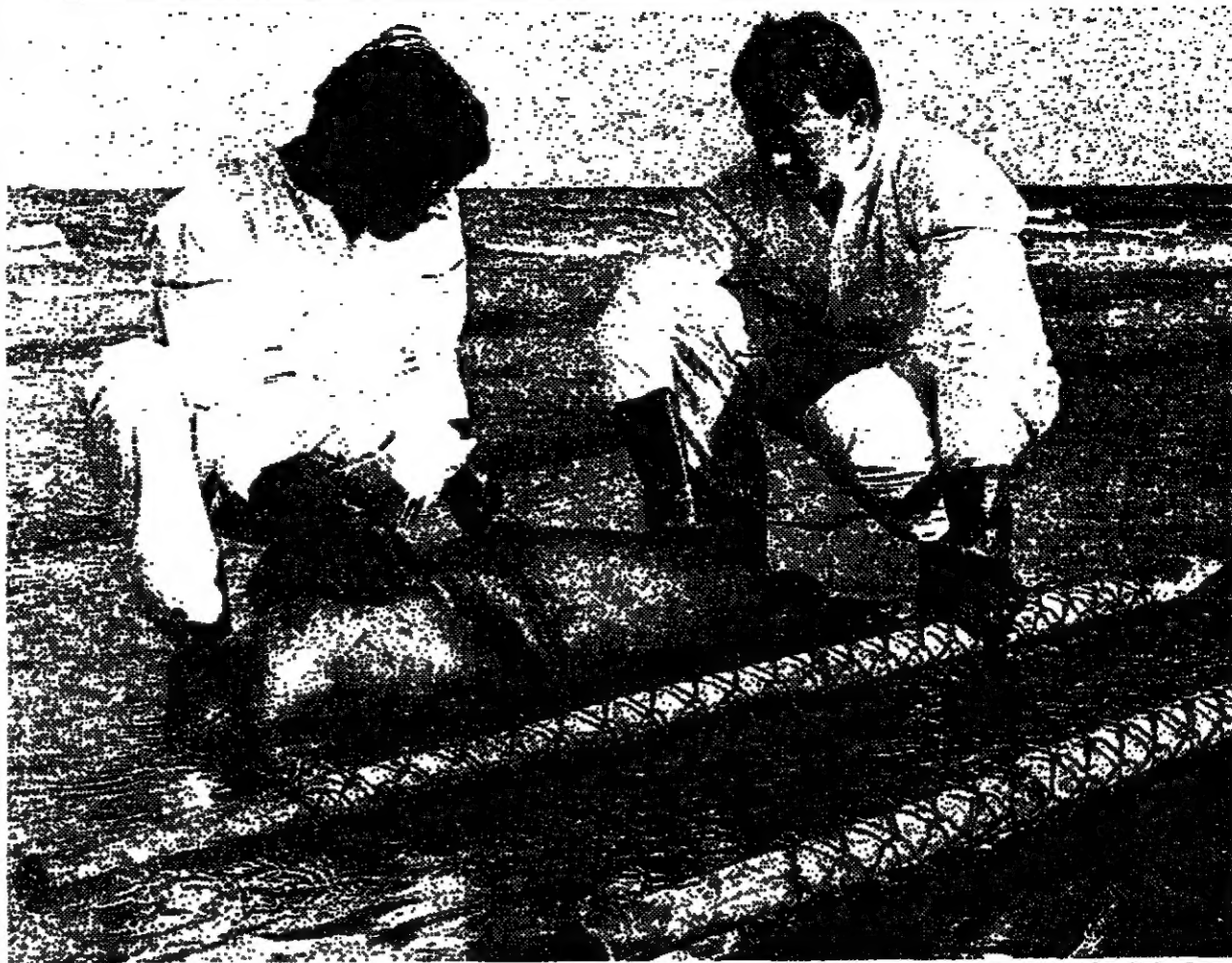
Labour, sensing that it has at last found a chink in the Government's economic armoury, kept up its attacks on Mr Lawson.

Mr Bryan Gould, its trade and industry spokesman, insisted last night that in spite of ministers' claims of an economic miracle the British economy was back where it started after nine years of Tory rule.

Share prices were again depressed, in spite of an initial attempt by market-makers to push prices higher. The FT-SE 100 index closed 9.5 points down at 1,770.7, after Thursday's 39 point fall.

Meanwhile, Mr Norman Tebbit, the former Conservative Party chairman, rallied to Mr Lawson's side. He too rejected credit controls.

Scientists fight to find vaccine for dying seals



Victim from the North Sea: A dead seal being removed from South Beach, Hunstanton, by West Norfolk Council workers.

Dutch identify deadly virus

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Scientists have discovered the cause of the epidemic which is killing thousands of seals in the North Sea and are trying to produce a vaccine against it.

They are certain that man-made pollution is not responsible for the disease. It also seems certain that it cannot be transmitted to humans.

Instead, the discovery by Dutch researchers identifies a previously unsuspected virus, and also rules out two other viruses which have been implicated.

The disease apparently undermines the immune system of the mammals, leaving them vulnerable to fatal forms of pneumonia or liver infection.

A huge international effort will be necessary to develop and distribute a form of

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treatment which can save some of the seals dying from the disease. But researchers face massive problems in trying to prevent more of the mammals from becoming infected.

Full details of the findings are being withheld until they are published in the British scientific journal *Nature* next week. The researchers and the editor of the journal refused to discuss them yesterday.

The work is being carried out by the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and Environmental Protection in Bilthoven, and at Europe's biggest seal clinic, at Pisterburen, in the northern Netherlands.

Dr Albert Osterhaus, the senior researcher involved, refused to discuss his findings yesterday, but one of his colleagues said: "We are very excited and very happy about our work."

Neither the herpes nor the picorna viruses, widely believed by other experts to be responsible for the epidemic, are the main cause, a spokeswoman for the Health Ministry in The Hague said.

Instead, it is understood that the real cause is a viral infection found in another animal species but never before connected to seals.

The spokeswoman said: "The researchers have proven that it is one definite factor which has killed the seals. All the dead seals had it."

The discovery comes as an enormous relief to the governments of Britain and other north European countries which have been accused of

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Security tight for extradition

By David Sapsted
and Michael Evans

A big cross-border security operation was underway last night in advance of the extradition from the Irish Republic today of Robert Russell, the Maze prison escapee.

The main Belfast to Dublin road, together with a score of minor roads in South Armagh, were sealed on both sides of the border in a bid to prevent a confrontation with Republican demonstrators and any IRA attempt to free Russell.

Last-minute efforts to block Russell's extradition failed.

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yesterday in the Dublin High Court. Mr Justice Liam Hamilton told Mr Elio Malocco, Russell's solicitor, that every avenue open to Russell under the Irish constitution had been made available to him.

The High Court had refused to direct his release and the Supreme Court had affirmed orders made by the High Court. The judge said it would be quite wrong of him to make orders that would effectively restrain the governor of Mountjoy prison and the Irish attorney general from complying with an order made by a

Continued on page 22, col 5

Land leases deal death blow to Stalin legacy

From Our Correspondent, Moscow

In a death blow to agricultural policies established under Stalin, Soviet authorities yesterday announced that individuals would be able to lease land from the state on 50-year contracts.

The decision reverses Stalin's collectivization policies which have formed the basis of Soviet agriculture since the 1930s.

Tass said that the equivalent of the Agriculture Ministry, the State Agro-Industrial Committee, had approved "recommendations" on the long-term contracts.

Western diplomats said the committee appeared to be rushing ahead with a proposal made by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev in July, without waiting for Politburo approval.

The proposal for 50-year land leases has been hotly debated in the press, with critics saying it runs counter to communist principles. However Mr Gorbachev emphasized when putting forward the idea that "there is nothing anti-Socialist involved".

Giving more details of the changes, Tass said the land leased could not be sold, and could be administered by small groups of people or families. Wages would not be

less than those on a state farm. Perhaps anticipating reluctance by local authorities to lease land, the committee has warned that "nobody has the right to refuse a lease".

Small-scale leasing started last year, but it is the Soviet leader's aim to generalize such leases and give land administration market-orientated management. Tass pointed out that in the 10,000 farms where leasing had been im-

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plemented already, worker productivity had increased by 36 per cent. It said a "new wave" of contracts would come into force in autumn and winter.

The Tass announcement coincided with a long article in *Pravda* which was highly critical of Stalin's method of implementing collectivization. Giving details for the first time of the disastrous effect of this strategy from 1928-1930, it accused Stalin of distorting official policy, which had aimed to transform Soviet agriculture gradually while retaining market-orientated policies backed by Lenin.

The article was in the form

of an interview with a historian from the Academy of Science's History Institute and an economist from the Marxism-Leninism Institute. It appeared to have the full authority of the Kremlin.

Pravda spelled out the policy differences between Stalin and Nikolai Bukharin, the now rehabilitated party theorist expelled from the leadership in November 1929 and later executed for opposing forced collectivization.

Stalin believed that the problems highlighted by the famine of 1927-1928 were caused by "enemies" while Bukharin stressed the shortcomings of party officials and their mistakes.

"The alternative was the Stalin line, with the stress on the struggle against enemies and forced command methods", or Bukharin's plan for "the perfecting of party and state work, and the development of the country's industry and socialist co-operatives in agriculture", the *Pravda* report said.

The *Pravda* message was clear: the country took a wrong turn by choosing Stalin's methods rather than Bukharin's, a choice which Mr Gorbachev is apparently attempting to reverse.

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to \$1.6910 against a generally weak dollar. The sterling index fell by 0.3 points to 75.6.

Mr Heseltine said on BBC radio: "I myself believe that a more selective means of controlling credit. Hire purchase is obviously one that could be dealt with."

But Mr Lawson, back to his usual robust self in a BBC radio interview, brushed aside his critics, saying he was "absolutely confident" that measures taken would work.

He urged people to "keep their nerve" and give the medicine time to have its effect.

Mr Heseltine had been a "little bit of what you might call an lickety-fingered interventionist", he said.

Credit controls would create economic distortions and would be "largely ineffective" without the parallel introduction of exchange controls.

The financially sophisticated would evade them by borrowing money from overseas institutions, the Chancellor said.

City economists criticized the Chancellor for limiting his

Swan song of carnival organizers

By Edward Gorman

The much-criticized organizing committee of the Notting Hill Carnival is unlikely to survive for more than a matter of weeks after this weekend's festival, according to representatives of funding bodies, local councils and disaffected committee members.

With the carnival due to start tomorrow, the critics of the Notting Hill Carnival Arts Committee say it has proved itself incompetent to run Europe's biggest street festival. They predict that its chairman, Mr Alex Pascall, and his associates will be forced out at the next annual meeting, to be held in the next month.

As a new argument broke out yesterday between organizers and police over the failure of the police to attend a final press briefing, the organizers appealed to the public not to be put off by reports of expected violence.

Police "snub", page 4

Supersonic successor BA may buy new Concorde

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

British Airways wants to become the launch customer for a supersonic successor to Concorde being developed by the French aircraft manufacturer Aerospatiale.

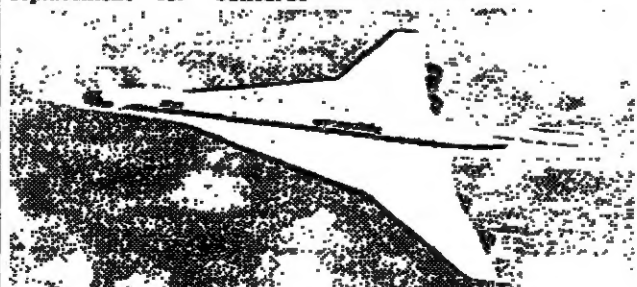
The airline has been anxious to maintain its world lead in supersonic flight, certain to end within the next 20 years once the existing Concorde fleet becomes obsolete.

Until now no aircraft manufacturer has designed a replacement for Concorde

that would be viable commercially and economically.

But Aerospatiale, working secretly with the French engine manufacturer Snecma, is set to mount a big sales drive starting at next month's Farnborough Air Show.

British Airways said last night: "We are very interested in anything new in the supersonic area. We have the most experience in flying supersonic passenger aircraft and are naturally anxious to continue to do so."



The French-designed aircraft likely to replace Concorde.

"We shall follow every new development from the moment it is on the drawing board."

The French have concentrated on producing a "half way house" design to bridge the gap between the existing Concorde technology and the new generation of hypersonic aircraft being developed in Japan, America and France for the next century.

The new Concorde - named FAST for Future Aircraft Supersonic Transport - will be twice as big as the existing jet and have a range of 6,500 miles. But its speed would be the same as Concorde's at Mach 2.2 or just over twice the speed of sound.

Concorde, which entered full time airline service in 1976, initially proved an economic disaster.

Now it is almost always full with passengers flying the Atlantic in little more than

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Blustery holiday weekend

The London Weather Centre yesterday forecast a "mixed bag" of weather for the Bank holiday weekend, ranging from sunshine to gale force winds.

The best of the weekend weather will be in the South but temperatures everywhere will be below average.

With threats of industrial action by European controllers lifted there should be minimal delays for air travellers, but motorists were told to allow extra time for journeys because of road works on motorways and major roads.

Ferry companies have warned motorists not to travel without a reservation, and drivers catching ferries from the south coast were told to allow an extra hour for their journey.

Traffic was heavy on all tourist routes last night and congestion is expected to be at its worst by Monday.

Forecast, page 22

DPP may move against cleared Christ film

By Ruth Gledhill

The Director of Public Prosecutions is to consider mounting a prosecution for blasphemy against the new film about the life of Christ, *The Last Temptation of Christ*, directed by Martin Scorsese.

The film, which depicts Christ on the cross subjected to a powerful temptation to make love to Mary Magdalene and bodily ripping his heart out, is due to open at three London cinemas on September 9.

Church leaders are in disarray the decision of the British Board of Film Classification, which voted unanimously to grant the film an "18" certificate, decided that it is not blasphemous and that no cuts are required.

The final decision rests with local authority licensing panels, most of which can, if they wish, ban the film in their districts and boroughs.

Two licensing panels, of the Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester and of Newcastle City Council, have already

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decided to view the film prior to its nationwide release shortly after its London opening.

One chain of eight picture houses, Unit Four Cinemas in the North, has decided not to screen it following a protest led by a Manchester mother-of-12, Mrs Frances Morris, a Roman Catholic, and supporters, collected

2,000 signatures on a protest petition.

The Conservative Family Campaign called for a blasphemy prosecution and urged local councils to refuse it a licence.

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, advised anyone concerned about the film to contact their local licensing panels.

Mr Allan Green QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, will consider the case against the film when he returns from holiday next week.

He is likely to view the film and examine the legal case against it because of "public concern", a spokeswoman for his office said.

The Church of England said the film was not blasphemous and urged its followers to make up their own

mind about whether or not to see it.

The Very Rev Michael Mayne, the Dean of Westminster, said: "The trouble about the film is that it is in no way blasphemous. It does not make a mockery of God or the Christian faith."

"It is about the nature of temptation and the conflict of flesh and spirit. But the film is poorly served by its scriptwriter and its actors." Its portrayal of Christ mixes Scripture with "pure invention" and depicts him as "a confused and fanatical miracle worker without much personal character", he said.

The Rt Rev Richard Harries, the Bishop of Oxford, said: "Unfortunately the Jesus of the film is very poorly acted, without a trace of credibility. All films about

Continued on page 22, col 4

SPIKE MILLIGAN'S NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS (8 MONTHS ON)

1. Give up rice pudding in bed.
The rice pudding fix at midnight! I was addicted. But I had to kick it. So I kicked the rice pudding and ended up with a soggy sock!
2. Stop being a compulsive rugger.
It's not my fault, I was born that way. I even turned up to Scrimshaw's Investiture naked in a top hat. How do you get a naked man into a top hat? Ask Paul Daniels.
3. Stop wearing the gas mask.
It was hell shaving. And kissing my wife smashed her teeth. Stop wearing it? I can't write a word of my War Memoirs without it.
4. Cut down on caffeine.
It seemed impossible but I had to break fresh ground. So I broke into fresh ground Cofe Hag. It tastes so good I take my top hat off to it! Now it's perfectly normal for me to go without caffeine, but I'd go crazy without a good cup of coffee!



NATURALLY DECAFFEINATED FOR A RICHER SMOOTHER FLAVOUR.

IN PART 2 Russell's day

Jack Russell failed by six runs to score a maiden Test century but gave England a commanding lead against Sri Lanka at Lord's.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Helicopter rescue hero breaks leg

A rescue-helicopter winchman helped to save three people from a sinking catamaran in the Channel yesterday despite breaking a leg and falling into the sea.

The Coastguard helicopter had been scrambled from Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, to go to the aid of the *Shardana*, 17 miles south of the Isle of Wight. Helicopter crewman Nick Horst, aged 38, was lowered to the pitching vessel but as he prepared to winch up the three men the boat rolled in heavy seas and two of them fell on top of him, breaking his leg.

He continued the rescue operation and two of the yacht crew were winched to the helicopter. Mr Horst fell into the sea attempting to reach an inflatable dinghy but was pulled aboard by the third crewman. Both were then winched to safety. Once in the helicopter, Mr Horst said his leg was broken.

Prison staff still out

A further hitch delayed the return to work of Holloway prison officers in north London yesterday. There was confusion after an abortive attempt to hold briefing meetings for members of the Prison Officers' Association yesterday before they went back. The Home Office said last night that a programme of briefing had been agreed to take place through the Bank holiday weekend beginning today, with Holloway to be fully staffed by Tuesday.

Raw eggs warning

The Department of Health warned people yesterday that raw eggs may be a source of food poisoning and should not be eaten or used in home-made, uncooked foods such as mayonnaise, ice creams and mousses. Commercially produced products of this type, made with pasteurized egg, have not been implicated.

£2m cannabis haul

Customs men at Harwich, Essex, seized cannabis worth more than £2 million hidden in a cattle lorry that drove off a North Sea ferry. The lorry was stopped in a random check of vehicles leaving the Sealink ship *St Nicholas* after its trip from the Hook of Holland. Customs officers discovered 726 kilos of cannabis resin concealed in compartments in the chassis. The driver of a Dutch-registered lorry was being questioned last night.

Soldier on gun charge

A Canadian officer on a training course with the British Army was remanded yesterday at Bow Street magistrates' court, central London, charged with attempted murder. Captain Christopher Tascona, aged 30, was also accused of robbing a woman and a man in the car park of the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, central London, and of possessing a firearm with intent to resist arrest and endanger life. The prosecution said shots were fired at the woman.

Move to prevent boycott of Employment Training scheme

Edmonds warns TUC of 'major disaster'

By Tim Jones and Roland Rudd

The TUC was warned yesterday that it would face a "major potential disaster" if it voted at its annual congress in Bournemouth next month to boycott the Government's £1.5 billion Employment Training scheme for 600,000 long-term unemployed.

The warning was made by Mr John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union, who believes the TUC and its affiliates will appear to have abandoned their "moral authority" as a champion of the unemployed if the left-led unions have their way and refuse to co-operate with the scheme.

Next week Mr Edmonds will meet nine union leaders who have submitted motions or amendments on Employment Training to try to reach a compromise which will effectively secure union participation in the scheme.

The motion submitted by

Twelve unions representing the 13,000 workers on strike at the Vickers shipyard at Barrow announced yesterday that their members had voted by more than 70 per cent to defy the advice of shop stewards and end the longest dispute in Britain this year.

A report into the effects of the strike by Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council says that after the dispute, which has seriously damaged the local economy, companies will need time to get back into full production.

The 660,000 man days of lost work cost the community about £30 million and the council's strike benefit office, which dealt with claims on behalf of 5,000 householders, has taken on 11 full

time people. According to the council's report, which is critical of management for not taking "the wider interests of the community to heart", the effect on local business, particularly in the engineering sector, "has been dramatic, with lay-offs, cash flow problems, reduced workloads and, in one case, closure".

The strikers voted 7,604 to 2,259 to accept a revised management offer. The settlement gives each worker £250, plus three days' extra pay, in return for phasing in the fixed summer shutdown from 1990. A pay rise still to be negotiated will be backdated to April.

The decision to go back to work comes after an agreement with the Confederation of Ship Building Unions, over a

pose the scheme. Already, the 1.37 million-strong Transport and General Workers' Union, the 657,000-strong National Union of Public Employees and Nalco, with its 750,000 members, have said they will oppose the scheme.

Instead he has submitted an amendment, taken from a local Nalco circular, which he is confident will be accepted.

package deal to settle their 12 week strike which brought the yard — the biggest in Britain — to a standstill since early in June. A local official said the shop stewards, who rejected the deal by 387 to 13, were disgusted by the package accepted by a majority of the workers.

After safety checks this weekend, office staff will return to work after the Bank holiday.

Work on a £2 billion Ministry of Defence order at the former Vickers yard, where the Trident submarines Vanguard and Victorious, three Trafalgar class nuclear-powered submarines and Upholder, a diesel-powered submarine, are being built, is now expected to resume on Tuesday.

scheme, admitted "a muddle is better than a disaster".

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, has said the scheme would be implemented with or without union co-operation although his department acknowledged it would be difficult to carry out if union members refused to work alongside unemployed trainees.

The opposing unions claim the scheme smacks of the American "workfare system" with its element of compulsion. At congress, they will back a motion instructing the General Council to withdraw its conditional support.

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, said yesterday he had a letter proving another union had approached non-TUC affiliated unions about forging closer links. The TUC said only the EETPU had contacted "known breakaways".

Six in IRA bus blast buried

Six of the eight Light Infantry soldiers killed in the IRA attack on an Army bus near Omagh, Co Tyrone, were buried yesterday.

The IRA men responsible for the attack were condemned at the funeral of Private Richard Greener, aged 21, at Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear. The Rev. Clement White said: "One day, thank God, they will have to appear before the judgement of almighty God and give account for their evil deeds".

Private Blair Bishop, aged 19, who had served in Northern Ireland for nearly two years, was buried in the same grave as his father, a sergeant

in the SAS who was killed in a road accident in 1976, after a service at St Martin's church in his home town of Hereford.

The Rev Robin Day told the funeral of Private Jason Winter, aged 19, at St Peter's church, Lyngford, Taunton, Somerset, that the ordinary people of Ireland gave hope for the future. "It is in the ordinary people that we see God at work and the real response to the evil that is perpetrated among them", he said.

Fifty bikers on 35 motorcycles escorted the hearse to the funeral of Private Peter Bullock, aged 21, at Stoke sub Hamdon, near Yeovil, Somerset. Among the mourners at St

Mary's parish church were Mr Paddy Ashdown, the SLD leader and local MP, and his wife, who are family friends.

Private Mark Norsworthy, aged 18, was buried in his home city of Plymouth, Devon. The Rev Michael Jones said: "Every event such as Mark's death shows even more forcefully how necessary the task of peace making and peace keeping is".

At the funeral of Private Stephen Wilkinson, aged 18, at Durham Cathedral, the Venerable Derek Hodgson, Archdeacon of Auckland, made a plea for no bitterness against the "savagely, senseless" killers of the young soldiers.

Stress of defector's son



Cristian Suba, who has accompanied his father, Mihai Suba (Photograph: Marc Aspland).

By Robin Young

Romania's defectoring chess grandmaster, Mihai Suba, was held to a draw yesterday by a schoolboy aged 14, as he became increasingly agitated by press attention after his announcement that he is seeking political asylum in Britain.

The Home Office has now identified an application for asylum from Mr Suba, postmarked August 23. It was found in mail awaiting attention. Mr Suba had consulted the UK Immigration Advisory Service on procedure before sending his application.

Mr Suba said repeatedly yesterday, in halting and

sometimes confused English, that his reasons for leaving Romania were complex and difficult to explain. "I have no troubles in the political sense", he said, "but the way things are done in Romania is very bad".

Mr Suba said he had been in conflict with the Romanian chess federation since refusing to take part in a tournament by the Black Sea in an area where he feared there was high radioactivity.

The chess player said both he and his son, Cristian, aged 12, whom he has brought with him to London, had suffered from health problems, and he

was also concerned about his son's education.

"I felt threatened and blackmailed at my increasing difficulty to get visas to play abroad", he said.

Mr Suba, who is ranked 78th in the world, said he had invested his life in chess, and would have felt he had no future if he was not allowed to continue to play internationally.

● Gary Kasparov, the world champion, has been ordered to apologise by the Filipino president of the international chess federation for public statements that have caused "discord" in chess circles.

Consumer borrowing

£6bn is owed on credit cards

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

A total of £6 billion is outstanding on bank credit cards, which are largely controlled by Access and Visa, according to recent figures.

This is 2.5 per cent of all consumer credit and mortgage advances of £230 billion in the UK. Home loans represent £192 billion of this figure, and the remaining £38 billion is spread among personal loans, store and credit cards and hire purchase agreements.

The amount of borrowed money outstanding on bank cards is declining. This type of credit, excluding mortgages, reached a peak of 17 per cent of all consumer lending in 1986. Since then the figure has fallen to 15.4 per cent.

Barclaycard, the biggest single credit card operator, with nine million customers, says the level of extended credit has risen this year by seven per cent — roughly in line with inflation. Fewer than 1 per cent of its customers fall into debt problems because of the card, Barclays maintains.

Since banks and other lending institutions base their

calculations for a customer's creditworthiness on individual financial circumstances, they do not reveal how much overall credit is granted. A rule of thumb for employed customers, with a reasonable credit history, might be their net monthly pay cheque.

Details of the formula credit companies used to reckon a customer's creditworthiness are kept secret in case applicants are encouraged to falsify information. However, one of the four major clearing banks offers students, who fulfill the criteria satisfactorily, £250 overdraft facilities and £250 credit on the bank's card. This is the only group who can be almost certain of a set credit allowance.

The number of customers who pay off their credit cards in full each month and do not incur interest charges, some of which are increasing next month to a 25.8 annual percentage rate, is rising. Forty-five per cent of Barclaycard customers now pay their bills in full each month, a policy recom-

mended by the Chancellor of the Exchequer earlier this month. The remaining 55 per cent tend to pay off the rest within four months and their average balance is £400.

● Householders, faced with further mortgage interest rate increases in October, should be able to cope although they will have to be careful, building societies predicted yesterday after the announcement of interest rate increases by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Christopher Warman writes).

The result of the increases is likely to bring a further slowing down in house price inflation, which is already levelling out in London and the South-east, according to Mr Simon Agace, chairman of Winkworth, the London estate agents.

The National Consumer Council said that increases in mortgage interest rates were not the cause of people getting into debt. That was usually the result of redundancy, breakdown of marriage, or gross financial mismanagement.

Dawn business shuttle launched

British Airways is to introduce an "Early Bird" Super Shuttle on the Glasgow to London route to meet changing work patterns.

The new service, starting on October 30, will leave at 6.55am to arrive at Heathrow at 8.15am.

British Airways said that the flights had been introduced because business people were prepared to get up earlier to start their day's work. Birmingham-Caledonian flight to Mahon left 75 minutes late at

FLIGHTCHECK



5.15pm. Dan Air from Ibiza arrived one hour late at 5pm. Adria Airways from Fula arrived one hour late at 5.15pm. Bristol-Britannia flight to Ibiza left 2 1/4 hours late at 11am. Britannia flight from Ibiza arrived two hours late at 4.30pm. Brymon early afternoon flight

from and to Isles of Scilly cancelled due to bad weather.

Cardiff: Air Europe to Malaga left 40 minutes late at 3pm. Dan Air to Mahon left 35 minutes late at 4.25pm.

East Midlands: Dan Air flight for Malaga due to leave at 2.20pm — delayed indefinitely. Orion flight to Mahon left 2 1/2 hours late at 6.15pm.

Manchester: Amber Air to Geneva left 4 1/2 hours late at 3.55pm. Dan Air to Malaga left 3 1/2 hours late at 5.45pm. British Airways to Düsseldorf left 75 minutes late at 5.35pm.

Based on *Open Bid prices*
With unit trusts it must be stressed that their value, can go down as well as up.
Past experience is not necessarily a guide to how they will perform in the future.

Unfortunately, not all investments can guarantee to make the most of your money.

We wouldn't suggest that investing in the stock market, either directly or through unit trusts, is always a bad idea.

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Young broker spent £300,000 salary on cocaine addiction

By Patrick O'Hanlon

A young stockbroker earning £300,000 a year spent nearly all his salary on cocaine after falling victim to the pressures of City life at the age of 19.

Judge Paiba, QC, told Michael Nettleton-Townend: "It is a tragedy that so many young men who are clever and hard working have, because of the present circumstances in the City, become able to earn vast sums of money at a very early age before they have learnt how to handle it."

Nettleton-Townend, aged 25, was introduced to cocaine shortly after starting his job. "Most or all of the £300,000 he earned each year has gone on drugs", Mr David Campbell, for the defence, said yesterday at Southwark Crown Court, south-east London.

"He started on this by doing the same sort of thing as many other young men in his position. He was given a smoke and told it would relax him."

"In no time at all he found himself in the situation where drug-taking was no longer casual but a necessity."

His employers gave him repeated chances to end his addiction. Mr Campbell said: "His principal discovered he was suffering from drug addiction and gave him time off to recover. He took the time off but concealed the fact that he

was still hooked when he returned to work."

After two more chances, Nettleton-Townend, of St Dionis Road, Parsons Green, south-west London, was still hopelessly addicted and he was dismissed in October last year. Soon afterwards, he was arrested by police for possession of heroin, cocaine and cannabis.

He was followed after police observed him making frequent visits to a West Kensington "drugs den", the court was told.

When police searched his home they discovered small quantities of the three drugs.

Nettleton-Townend, who drove a Porsche and wore expensive suits, has managed to remain drug-free for several months. "He has suffered greatly through his addiction", Mr Campbell said. "He has lost hair and weight and has deteriorated into a highly nervous condition."

"Physically, he is free of it, but mentally he has a long way to go and is not going to return to work until he is fully recovered."

Nettleton-Townend admitted three charges of possessing the three drugs. He was put on probation for two years, fined a total of £1,000 and ordered to pay £500 costs. In 1985 he was convicted of attempting

to possess cocaine. He is now living with his parents in Worthing, West Sussex, and hoping to go to stay with an uncle in New Zealand.

The judge told him: "You no doubt realize how much money you have wasted, money which could have helped you in the future."

"You have come back from the brink before you are too old, and I hope you will be able to repair the damage to yourself and your family."

Nettleton-Townend's father told Judge Paiba that the family was behind his son's efforts to rid himself of drugs.

"His possibilities of recovering are very good if he is given the chance to stay with us", Mr Ian Nettleton-Townend said.

A detective said after the hearing: "I would describe him as a yuppie in every sense of the word."

"He is a young guy who works in stocks and shares, wears expensive clothes, owns a home in Fulham and drives a Porsche 911. This is a real fall from grace. It has cost him a salary of £300,000 a year."

Nettleton-Townend said later at his home: "Of course I hope to rebuild my life and start afresh. It's been a very disturbing time for me, but at least I've been given the chance to start again."

Five convicted of smuggling

By Mark Ellis

Britain's isolated beaches are a haven for drug traffickers. Customs officers said last night after five people were convicted of smuggling cannabis worth £4 million.

The four men and a woman were caught in stormy seas off the Welsh coast after Customs officers led by Miss Joan Fraser, aged 25, mounted a year-long surveillance operation, codenamed Bach, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

Two of the gang were left shipwrecked at the foot of cliffs after three nights of storms forced them to postpone their original plans for landing the cannabis.

Bales of the drug, which they had been transferring from the 70ft trawler Minou to a dinghy off Aberbach, were left floating in the sea after the inflatable capsized.

The surveillance operation included car chases at speeds of up to 130mph from London to lonely coves in west Wales, Devon and Cornwall, as the smugglers reconnoitred possible landing sites in a hired sports car.

Police and Customs officers set up a hilltop control centre and used night vision equipment and camouflaged observation posts in underground to watch the gang 24 hours a day after they rented Aberbach Cottage, near Fishguard, Dyfed, close to a cove accessible only with four-wheel drive vehicles.

The Minou was later arrested by the Royal Navy as

its skipper Robert Delbos tried to flee to Spain. Inquiries covered the United States, Spain, The Netherlands and North Africa.

The five were all found guilty at Cardiff Crown Court yesterday of illegally importing 1.5 tonnes of cannabis.

Customs officers believe a big smuggling network has been smashed, although a middleman who supplied the shipment is still being sought.

Four men had already admitted smuggling the drugs in November 1986 before the trial.

They were: Kim Buckley, aged 43, a motor trader, of Cwmffrwd, near Carmarthen; Dyfed; David Jeffrey, aged 28, of Bowles Road, Beulah, Newcastle; Emlyn Dyfed; Neil Francis, aged 32, of Carpenters Cottage, Sissaghurst, Kent; and Robert Turnbull, aged 35, of no fixed address from the South Shields area, Tyne and



Delyth Davies, found guilty of smuggling cannabis.

Wear. Those convicted of smuggling were Peter Welch, aged 49, of Uplands Crescent, Swansea, West Glamorgan, a pop musician who was the gang leader, and his lover Delyth Davies, aged 28, a vicar's daughter, who was described as the gang's book-keeper. She who posed as Welch's wife or sister, Dennis Wheeler, aged 40, a London businessman and "a cannabis broker", who travelled to Morocco, Spain and America arranging drugs deals was also convicted, as were Robert Delbos, aged 38, of no fixed address, who skipped the converted fishing boat; and Barry Scott, aged 30, a builder, from Mitcham, Surrey. All 16 charges against the five were proved.

Welch was found to have homes in Kent, where cocaine worth £300,000 was discovered, Swansea and a villa in Portugal.

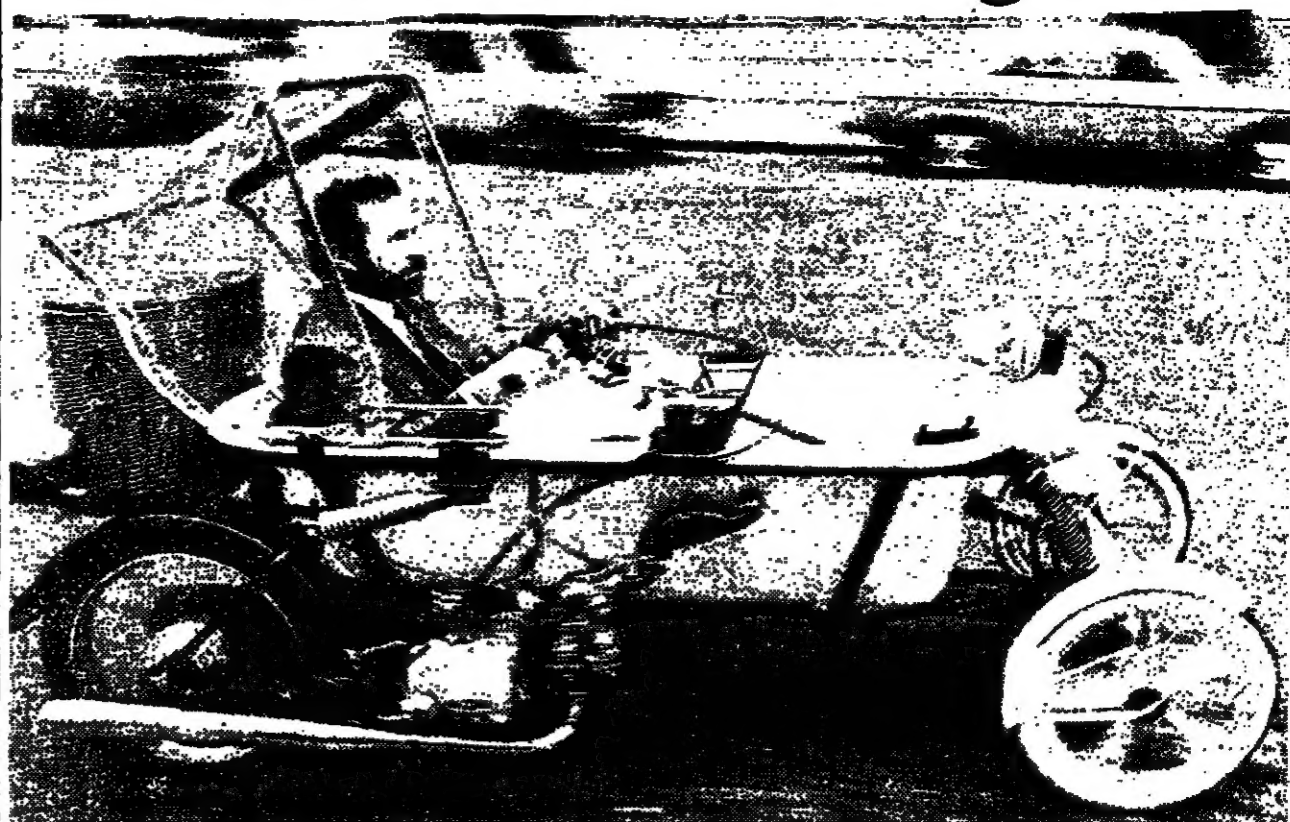
The court was told how Davies became a cocaine dealer.

The jury deliberated for four days after the nine-week trial.

The judge, Mr Justice Mans-Jones, adjourned sentence on all the gang until September 12, and praised Miss Fraser for leading the team on Operation Bach.

He said: "I congratulate you and your officers and those officers of the Dyfed Powys Police constabulary. It was a truly superb surveillance operation."

Debut for the travelling bath



Mr Les Lawrence, from International Automotive Design, of Worthing, West Sussex, demonstrating a motorised bath in Portland Place, London, yesterday. His firm designed it for The Michael McGough Foundation Against Liver Disease in Children which plans to drive it from John O'Grady's to Land's End to raise £1 million. A team of drivers will be used in the two-week event. Money raised goes to hospitals in London, Birmingham and Cambridge which specialize in research into children's liver diseases. All concerned in the event are donating their services (Photograph: Dennis McNeelance).

Tow-in for rudderless admiral

By Robin Young

Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, former Chief of Staff, Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe, was towed into Braye harbour, Alderney, in the Channel Islands early yesterday morning, after being found sailing rudderless by a fishing boat.

The admiral, whose former naval commands included Victoria and Endeavour, had been manoeuvring his 31ft yacht, Tequila II, in the direction of Alderney for 13½ hours, after his rudder dropped off in mid-Channel.

The alarm was raised by Mr Ray Gaudin, skipper of the fishing boat, who saw Sir Peter's handlamp signals as he chugged towards Cherbourg. Mr Gaudin alerted his cousin, Declan, the deputy harbourmaster at Braye, and within half an hour the Alderney lifeboat, captained by the coxswain, Mr Steve Shaw, had taken Sir Peter in tow.

Safely moored at Braye, the vice-admiral vigorously denied that he and his crewmate, Mr John Gulliford, had ever been in difficulty. "I cannot imagine what all the fuss is about. We were coming to Alderney and we got here only a little later than planned."

Sir Peter agreed that without a rudder he could not be in full control of his vessel, but said: "We could have stayed happily aboard much longer. When the fishing vessel came by we decided to take advantage of the opportunity it offered."

"Any sailing person would understand that this was not an unusual event in any way", Sir Peter said. Mr Shaw, who was called out three times within 24 hours yesterday, said: "He's right. It could happen to anyone, I suppose."

Scottish school reforms

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Opt-out offer to parents

Scottish ministers are preparing legislation to allow parents to opt out of local authority control and set up as state schools directly funded by the Government.

The changes, to be introduced in Parliament in November, would give Scottish parents the same rights as those in England and Wales.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, is likely to announce next month that he hopes to introduce legislation to bring Scotland into line with the rest of the country under the Education Reform Act.

The Act allows schools to opt out of council control, calls for attainment tests for pupils at seven, 11 and 16 and sets a national curriculum.

The Educational Institute of Scotland, the largest Scottish teachers' union, has launched a campaign against opting out and new proposals to ask local education authorities to publish league tables of schools.

Mr Michael Forsyth, the minister responsible for education within the Scottish Office, has already said that he would consider introducing opt-out legislation if he be-

lieved there was a demand. And Mr Rifkind is known to think it is unfair that Scottish parents are deprived of rights given to parents in England and Wales.

Mr Fred Forrester, organizing secretary of the institute, said: "The effects on the mainstream educational system will be serious and, if opting out approaches or exceeds 10 per cent of the population, drastic."

This year's examination results show alarming gaps in standards between the old GCE O levels and the new GCSE according to a history teacher who had entered his pupils in both the Scottish GCE and the English GCSE.

Mr Chris McGovern, head of history at Lewis Lewes Priory School in East Sussex, has always claimed that the GCSE papers were of a low standard and did not sufficiently test a pupil's understanding of British history. He had originally wanted his pu-

pils to take only the Scottish papers but the education authority refused permission.

In the end 26 of the 83 history candidates at the mixed comprehensive took both examinations in modern British history gaining widely varying results. Mr McGovern claimed that on average there was a 40 mark difference between the papers.

In the Scottish paper four pupils failed to get a grade at all, 11 were graded A to C - usually considered to be an O level pass - and 11 were graded D to E.

In the GCSE, there were 12 A to C - roughly equivalent to O level passes, five D, six E and three F grades.

Discrepancies in the results included one candidate who scored 14 per cent in the Scottish exam but a C in the GCSE, and two pupils who were both graded B in GCSE, while in the Scottish exam, one scored 29 per cent and the other 78 per cent.

Richard Challis, aged 16, a dyslexic, of Ashley, near Corsham, Wiltshire, has become the first in Britain to pass GCSE examinations on a word processor.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Family to share win

A housewife who is one of the two winners sharing the Portfolio prize of £4,000 plans to use her windfall to give presents to her husband and three children.

Mrs Sarah Maher, of Archway, north London, said: "I have been playing the competition since it started and this is my first win. I used to be a nurse, but I gave up to have a family."

"I am sure my family would like to share in the win as my husband is not working at the moment."

Also sharing the prize is Mr Philip Morgan, of Kimbolton Court, Gifford Park, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Turin Shroud 14th century fake, don says

By Robert Matthews Technology Correspondent

A Cambridge university academic yesterday claimed scientific tests had proved the Turin Shroud, in which the body of Christ was supposedly wrapped after the crucifixion, was a fake, probably dating from the 14th century.

However, the Oxford University scientists taking part in the international project to date the shroud said yesterday that they had no idea of the basis of the claim, made by Dr Richard Lockett, Fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge and the Cambridge University's Papyrus Librarian.

"We don't know anything about him at all, and we've never spoken to him", a spokeswoman said. "All the results have now been sent to the British Museum."

The museum said yesterday the results of the carbon dating tests made by Oxford University and laboratories in Switzerland and Arizona had all been received.

They are being collated before an announcement by the Vatican press office in late September or early October.

The teams did their tests under strictly controlled conditions to prevent the results leaking out. Professor Edward Hall, who led the Oxford team, said only one scientist was allowed to calculate the date after the tests.

Although not revealing which of the laboratories provided his information, Dr Lockett said that "laboratories are rather leaky institutions".

"A probable date of about 1350 looks likely", he said.

Social workers boycott abuse inquiry

By Ian Smith

Independent social workers have refused to investigate a second allegation of child sexual abuse against a father cleared by a High Court judge of molesting his two daughters because they were unwilling to become embroiled in the Cleveland controversy, it was maintained yesterday.

For three weeks staff of a High Court registrar in Middlesbrough have attempted to persuade two neighbouring social services departments to appoint an experienced staff member to carry out disclosure interviews with the girls, aged five and three.

Now Mr Nicholas Woodhouse, a solicitor who represents the father, says unless the impasse is resolved within

days he will demand that a private child psychologist be appointed by the court to end the "renewed nightmare" suffered by his client.

The second allegation of abuse was levelled against the father by his estranged wife nine months after a wardship hearing at which Judge Myrle Cohen, QC, ordered that the children be reunited with their parents.

The judge said the wife had convinced herself that her husband was guilty and added: "The father leaves this court without any stain on his character. I find that the children have not been sexually abused."

The children remain wards of court, though the father is allowed unsupervised access

every Sunday at the home of his mother.

The younger child is alleged to have told the mother of intimate contact between her and her father during a visit on July 17.

The next day the mother reported the matter to Cleveland social services department.

On August 5, the case was considered by the High Court registrar who ordered inquiries to be made by a social worker from another authority.

The North Yorkshire and Durham social services have declined to be involved in the case. The official reason given is shortage of staff but Cleveland County Council sources say talks with their colleagues

suggest the real reason is the controversy generated by the Cleveland sex abuse case.

Mr Woodhouse says he has no doubt that pressure of work is being used as an excuse. "It is blatantly unfair that my client should be tried again and again for a supposed crime of which he has already been found innocent."

"Being accused a second time has left him distraught and the delay in concluding this investigation means that he is permanently living under a black cloud."

A spokesman for Cleveland County Council said once a complaint had been made by the girls' mother the matter was referred to the county council's solicitor and the High Court registrar alerted.

National Trust and hunts

Opposition to member's call for ban

By Robin Young

The National Trust, which owns nearly 600,000 acres in England and Wales, is to be urged at its annual meeting in October to ban all fox, stag and hare hunting with hounds on its land where it would be legally possible.

Mr Paul Sheldon, aged 40, an academic who is director of the Dorset training consortium and a member of the League Against Cruel Sports, has tabled a resolution for the annual meeting, with the backing of 17 friends.

The move is opposed by the trust's council, which wishes to maintain the status quo set out in a policy statement in response to a request from the membership in 1982.

That permits hunting over trust land where hunting is the local tradition and is not harmful to conservation, public recreation, or the rights of tenants.

In practice, hunting is allowed over

about one-seventh of the trust's land, and more than thirty hunts would be affected if the move for a ban succeeded.

Even if Mr Sheldon's resolution was carried, hunting would continue over some trust land where it is a condition of existing leases, tenancies or deeds of gift.

For example the biggest gift of land the trust has yet received was 22,000 acres of the Holcombe estate in north Devon and Somerset which was given by Sir Richard Acland on condition that stag-hunting should be allowed to continue.

Sir Richard, aged 81, plans to oppose Mr Sheldon's resolution although he has not himself hunted since he was 18.

The trust's membership is now 1.5 million, but only a few hundred normally attend the annual meeting, where the council viewpoint is likely to be carried by proxy votes cast by the chairman, Dame Jennifer Jenkins. In the

last council elections, including postal ballots, only 20,000 members voted.

Mr Sheldon said yesterday: "The vast majority of opinion in the country is overwhelmingly against hunting, but we shall have to overcome the apathy of the average member if we are to win."

The trust council says it is essential that the National Trust should retain the goodwill of country people and respect long-established local traditions.

The trust owns large tracts of land in the West Country and the John Peel hunting country of the Lake District, where hill farmers traditionally use hunting as a means of fox control.

Mr Sheldon said: "The council are trying to fudge the issue and trying to avoid hurting anybody's feelings."

"I think they should wake up to the way opinion has changed in recent years."

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OPENS TODAY

Notting Hill committee faces split as dispute flares on number of street stewards

Carnival organizers clash with police over briefing 'snub'

By Edward Gorman

Tension between the police and the organizers of the Notting Hill carnival in west London mounted last night after the organizers criticized the police for failing to attend a final pre-carnival press briefing.

Mr Alex Pascall, the Notting Hill Carnival Arts Committee chairman, told the briefing that he would have liked to have seen representatives of the police sitting alongside him at the meeting as a gesture of solidarity on the eve of carnival.

Mr Pascall added that despite the fact that the committee had invited the police to attend, "right up until the night before" they had seen fit not to do so.

Senior police officers reacted angrily to what they say is a last-minute attempt by the organizers to snub them. The police say they were not told that a briefing was to take place until midnight the night before, and that it would be impossible for Commander Larry Roach, who is in charge of policing at the carnival, to attend at such short notice.

"We resent that they are trying to make it look as if we have snubbed them", the

police said last night. "That is unprofessional and simply untrue."

Meanwhile, with carnival due to begin tomorrow, disaffected members of the committee, representatives of the main public funding bodies and independent observers say they are convinced that the committee's current board will not survive for long after this year's carnival.

Privately they predict that Mr Pascall will be forced to convene an annual meeting sometime before October at which a vote will be taken to remove him and his colleagues from the running of the carnival.

Already meetings have been taking place between the funding bodies, the local councils and members of the committee critical of the board, to prepare the ground for next year's carnival.

An independent observer close to the manoeuvring said that if Mr Pascall and Mr Victor Cribbrow, the committee's treasurer, try to resist attempts to remove them democratically, the funding bodies may simply withdraw their support for them and

offer next year's money to a new, more representative and professional, organizing body set up alongside.

"If necessary, we will have to pull the rug from underneath them", he said.

The moves to oust the present board reflect growing criticisms, not only from the police and local authorities, but from the committee members themselves, who argue that the board has shown itself to be incapable of running Europe's biggest street festival.

The time has come, they argue, to hand it over to professionals and for the event to move on to a self-financing basis for the first time. The reformers take their lead from a recent report by City accountants, Coopers & Lybrand, which recommended, among other things, that the present board be replaced.

At yesterday's briefing Mr Pascall tried to deflect continued concern over the failure of the committee to produce 500 stewards as agreed under a public safety plan with police last March.

In spite of the fact that only between 120 and 150 stewards



Michael Lawiriphat, aged nine, trying on his costume for the children's parade tomorrow (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

turned up for a briefing by senior police officers on Thursday night, Mr Pascall said he was confident there would be 500 on duty tomorrow.

Mr Peter Renner, chief steward, told the meeting: "As of 9am this morning, I have 507 names to be used as

stewards". He said the stewards were organized into six sectors, each with a sector head linked to the central control by radio, so men would be deployed, where needed.

Mr Renner added that his stewards, including many ex-servicemen and community

leaders, had been instructed to co-operate with the police. The stewards had also been told to handle troublemakers with discretion.

"They will approach them and warn them off. If they refuse to go the stewards will ask for the co-operation of the police", he said.

Mr Pascall said that money, which he estimated at £40,000, was still needed to pay the stewards for the weekend, but he was confident it would be found. "I am sure somebody somewhere will realize the work that has gone into carnival and will come forward."

World Congress of Philosophy

Moral dilemma in unending dialogue

By David Nicholson-Lord

After a week spent pondering theories of meaning and the meaning of theories, philosophers yesterday addressed the prospects for the planet. Will the Earth survive? Does the Earth deserve to survive?

At the last full session of the World Congress of Philosophy in Brighton, delegates debated the present and future of humanity and the role of philosophers in the councils of the world.

At least some of them did. Fewer than 50 of the 1,000 seats in the Great Hall of the Brighton Centre were occupied. Many participants were clearly contemplating the possibilities of nuclear annihilation in the more pleasing environs of Arundel Castle, during the special half-day tour laid on by the organizing committee.

"I think this session is very important", Dr Ramjee Singh, professor of Gandhian thou-



Sir Alfred Ayer, in closing defence of empiricism.

ght at Bhagpur University, India, said, surveying a scene of vacancy not unlike the House of Lords on Derby Day. Outside the hall, pragmatists muttered patronizingly about a "high level of generalization" and looked forward to the afternoon

workshops on Kant's *Opusculum* and phenomenology after Husserl.

Inside, as the atmosphere grew thick with value judgements, eternal verities flapped overhead and the great thinkers of yesterday — Plato, Aristotle, Confucius — rumbled thunderously among the empty aisle. It was what everyone always used to think philosophy was about.

This may well have explained the high absenteeism rate. Faced with a world confronting mass hunger, ecological catastrophe and nuclear holocaust, complained Professor Odera Oruka, vice-president of the All African Council for Philosophy, philosophers had forgotten their moral mission, their traditional role of providing "the most comprehensive insight into the predicament of human life". Yet therein lay a difficulty.

To say that world poverty must be eliminated was to make a normative statement, denigrated by positivists as without truth-value.

The desirability of continued human life on Earth was also debatable, Professor Oruka said. Fortunately, those who debated usually wanted to go on living a little longer themselves so that they could continue their debate.

Dr Julius Tomin, the former Czech dissident, sounded a further note of caution. Look at Plato's attempt to mould Dionysius of Syracuse into a philosopher-king, he said.

Old ways of thinking resume today, with Sir Alfred Ayer closing the conference with a defence of empiricism. Perhaps, Dr Oruka said, what philosophers achieve among themselves is not a consensus, on truth but a "fruitful unending dialogue about talk".

Lorry wheels

Design blamed for deaths

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Certain types of wheel fixings on commercial vehicles should be redesigned to reduce the risk of wheels coming loose or falling off, the Institute of Road Transport Engineers said yesterday.

The institute, which commissioned a three-year research programme, said eight people had died so far this year as a result of lorry wheels coming off.

Mr John Dickson-Simpson, chairman of a study group on the problem, said there were no statistics on the number of times that wheels worked loose or came off, but it must be much greater than the number of deaths caused.

The research by Exeter University and the Motor Industry Research Association was commissioned at a cost of about £60,000. Before the research the problem had been attributed to bad main-

tenance. But Mr Dickson-Simpson said the research had shown that the main cause was faulty design.

The problem was that nuts holding the wheel in position worked loose on some types of fixing and this caused stress and metal fatigue on parts of the fixing.

The institute said the nuts should be tightened more than the manufacturers recommended and said there should be minor design changes, including the introduction of studs of slightly greater diameter.

Mr Dickson-Simpson said further research was needed, which he hoped would be supported by the British Standards Institution.

"We want a situation where, if a wheel comes off, there will be no doubt that it is negligence, but we cannot say that at the moment", he said. If a

wheel needed to be tightened once a week there was something wrong and the design needed to be examined.

The Freight Transport Association, which has about 13,000 members, said it would back the recommendations. The loss of wheels was not a maintenance problem but a failure within the wheel, which could happen without warning.

It happened even to operators who observed the highest standards. It did not happen often, but when it did it was serious because of the size of the vehicles.

Mr Dickson-Simpson criticized the failure of the Department of Transport to become more involved in the issue.

The department said its engineers had held discussions with IRTE and it was involved on a BSI committee dealing with this.

Estate handovers go ahead

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, is pushing ahead with plans to transfer six of England's worst housing estates from local authorities to private enterprise, although the House of Lords has rejected the scheme. He has ordered work to start on preparing the estates for compulsory handover to Housing Action Trusts (HAT) next year. He has appointed advisers to prepare tenants for the change of landlord.

Peers voted last month to give tenants the right to veto any decision to assign their estates to the trusts, which would revive and resell them to private landlords or housing associations.

Opponents of the Government's plans are confident that a majority of tenants would vote to remain under local authorities because they fear much higher rents and loss of security of tenure under the Housing Action Trusts proposals.

However, Mr Ridley is undeterred by his defeat and has appointed consultants to start work on the Housing Action Trusts in the six designated estates in Sandwell, Sunderland, and Leeds, and the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Southwark and Lambeth.

He will ask MPs to reverse the Lords vote when the Housing Bill returns to the Commons early November. However, his plans could fail if the peers vote again for a mandatory tenants' ballot because the Bill must be on the statute book by mid-November, when the session ends.

Mr Ridley has also appointed two advisers, Mr Bill Woolf and Mr Geoff Spoor, to tour the estates this autumn to try to convince tenants of the advantages of the proposals.

He has earmarked £125 million for the first three years of the trusts with the bulk of the money expected to be

recouped when the renovated estates are sold off. If a success, he hopes to extend the scheme to other problem estates.

He opposes giving tenants the right to veto the trusts because he believes they will be "frightened off" the idea by local authorities.

However, Lord McIntosh of Haringey, shadow environment minister in the Lords, pointed out that Mr William Waldegrave, the former housing minister, said the success of the trust depends on "winning the hearts and minds of the tenants".

He argued that the Conservatives' 1987 election manifesto also promised people greater responsibility over their own lives.

Thousands of pensioners who retired to Greater London Council homes in southern England now fear rent increases of up to 80 per cent since they were taken over by a housing association.

Ferry firm sails into troubled waters

By Kerry Gill

Thousands of people in the Western Isles are to fight plans by a ferry company to "desecrate" the Sabbath by introducing Sunday sailings.

Feelings are running high among the scattered communities with hints of direct action to stop ferries berthing. Many fishermen say they will attempt to blockade piers to stop the Sunday ferries.

Yesterday, the population of one island sent off a petition to the Queen and the Prime Minister asking them to intervene in the dispute.

The proposals have enraged the 30,000-strong community, with few exceptions. Caledonian MacBrayne plans to start Sunday services on the so-called "Island Triangle" between Uig on the Isle of Skye, Loch Maddy on North Uist and Tarbert on Harris during the summer.

On neighbouring Scalpay, all but four of the 300 islanders signed a petition condemning Caledonian MacBrayne and calling on the management to resign.

At present no ferries run on Sundays to the Western Isles, from Lewis in the north to Barra in the south. Most of the residents have always observed the Sabbath, campaigning to stop outside influences violating Sundays, whether

among the Protestant community in the north or the Roman Catholics in the southerly islands.

Mr Ian MacLean, general manager of Caledonian MacBrayne, said: "During the summer months there is a huge demand from tourists, coach operators and people generally using the service".

The ferry can carry 800 people and 80 cars. Objectors say that crews and men working on the piers would be forced to give up their Sabbath.

Caledonian MacBrayne already runs services on Sundays to other Scottish islands such as Arran, Islay and Mull, without opposition, although there has not been the same tradition of observing the Sabbath on those islands.

The ferry company, however, has not attempted to impose Sunday services between Ullapool, on the north-west coast of Scotland, and Stornoway, capital of the Western Isles, where opposition to Sunday working is arguably unconquerable.

The Rev Alex MacLeod, a minister in the Free Church of Scotland and chairman of the Lord's Day Observance Society in the Western Isles, said Sunday ferries would mean "a complete desecration of the Lord's Day". He denied that

the church was telling the community how to live. "We are not a pressure group on our own who are seeking to impose our views on other people. We are the spokesmen for a large part of the community."

"I am a minister here on the invitation of the people, people who know my views and want a minister with my views. Had I different views, they would ask me to leave", he said.

Mr MacLeod said many visitors to the islands appreciated the peace and quiet of the Sabbath and that was an inherent attraction of the islands. "If Sunday services were to be attempted there would be a terrible tension and it would arouse people here powerfully."

"Certainly the ministers would be the last to arouse people into civil disobedience, it would only be as a last resort."

Several years ago, a Free Church minister stopped a ferry docking at Kyelekin, Skye, by sitting on the edge of the pier. Ferries, however, now run a seven-day service to Skye.

Mr Donald Macdonald, of Scalpay, said: "We regard Cal Mac as callous with no respect for our feelings. They are trying to suppress the people and their way of life."

Tapes played during surgery aid recovery

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Anaesthetized patients who are played reassuring tape-recorded messages while on the operating table, make quicker than average recoveries, hospital doctors have discovered.

Soothing words, such as "you will not feel sick, you will not have pain", were delivered through earphones to women undergoing hysterectomies, as part of an experiment at St Thomas's Hospital, south-east London.

The results, published in *The Lancet* today, were that the women spent less time in hospital after surgery, and were thought by nurses to have made a better recovery than expected, compared with a similar group of patients who were played blank tapes during their operations.

That suggests that the patients absorbed the messages subconsciously while under general anaesthetic, although they later had no recollections of having heard them, the doctors say.

All of the women agreed in

advance to take part in the experiment. The 12-minute tapes were played several times during the operations.

They contained suggestions such as, "how quickly you recover from your operation depends on you — the more you relax, the more comfortable you will be", and the voice of a surgeon saying: "The operation seems to be going very well and the patient is fine".

The experiment was based on evidence that operating theatre sounds are probably registered in some areas of a patient's cortex, during general anaesthesia, and may influence recovery.

The doctors wanted to test the theory that patients may also respond to therapeutic suggestions during their operations.

"Inappropriate or misinterpreted operating theatre comments may have a harmful effect upon recovery, and suggestions that patients' ears should be plugged during surgery have been made", the doctors say in *The Lancet*.

Assaulted lawyer offers aid

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A solicitor who is taking out a private prosecution against youths who assaulted him after the Crown Prosecution Service brought lesser charges is offering his legal services free to any serving police officer in a similar plight.

Mr Martin Smith, a special constable who runs his own solicitor's firm in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, wants to help serving officers who, like him, are assaulted and — disillusioned with the CPS — want to bring private prosecutions.

Mr Smith's office confirmed yesterday that there had been a very good response, with about a dozen calls from police officers throughout the country.

The move comes after Mr Smith, aged 38, suffered a broken nose, a two-inch cut to his face down to the bone and four damaged teeth when he arrested a youth last February.

Three youths were charged and, Mr Smith says, made

confessions admitting the assault. They were charged with offences of causing grievous bodily harm but the charges were later reduced to actual bodily harm.

Instead of a trial at the crown court, the magistrates dealt with the youths summarily. They were sentenced to community service and fines of £50 and £100.

Mr Smith, who learnt of the sentences in a local newspaper, applied for and was granted summonses for the more serious assault charges against two of the youths. The committal proceedings are expected early next year.

He feels let down by the CPS and angry that the service accepted lower charges than what in his view was merited.

As a result he has made it known through police publications that he is offering his services as a solicitor free.

Mr Smith hopes his offer will force the CPS to improve communications with the victim and his solicitors so that a

more detailed and accurate picture of events can be put before the court.

Mr Smith was injured as he struggled with youths outside a public house at closing time.

Yesterday the Crown Prosecution Service said: "The case was carefully scrutinized by a senior CPS lawyer prior to the decision to substitute charges of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and affray for those preferred by the police."

"In view of the further proceedings now pending, it would be inappropriate to comment further on the evidence or the reason for the CPS decision."

The offence of occasioning actual bodily harm carried a penalty of five years' imprisonment.

"In this particular case the justices decided, having had the facts placed before them, to deal with the case summarily, even though the CPS had invited them to commit the defendants to trial."

Soviet fighters in UK debut to draw orders

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The pilots of two Russian MiG 29 jets due to appear at the Farnborough Air Show are determined to show off the full capabilities of the Warsaw Pact's most potent fighters when they arrive in Britain next week.

The pilots, both civilians, have told the organizers that they want to perform high speed aerobatics before landing at Farnborough runway on Tuesday to prepare for the week-long show which starts on September 4.

The Soviet Embassy is planning an important sales drive, including a press conference and full briefings about the MiG 29 in a determined effort to clinch foreign orders during the show.

The MiGs, piloted by the Mikoyan chief test and development pilot, Mr Valery Menitski and his deputy, Mr Anatoly Quotchar, will be flown from Russia to East Germany before making their high speed dash across the North Sea towards England. They will be met at the edge of

British airspace by two RAF Tornados which will then escort them to Farnborough where they are expected to be the stars of the show.

It is the first time the MiGs, known in Nato by their codename Fulcrum, have been seen in the West and the fact that they have been allowed in at all has been made possible only because of the policy of *Glasnost* in the Soviet Union.

Months of detailed planning have gone into the MiGs' appearance in Britain. It included talks between Soviet and British officials and Nato air forces agreeing to the aircraft overflying sensitive areas.

The Russians will be sending a giant An-124 transport aircraft to Farnborough a few hours ahead of the MiGs to act as a self-contained maintenance base. The pilots will then take part in detailed briefings with other pilots who will perform during the show, which is expected to be attended by more than 300,000 people.

European proposals 'threat to Channel 4'

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

Channel 4, which is funded by ITV stations, could be affected by financial troubles if European proposals restricting advertising on television are approved, the station's marketing chief said yesterday.

A draft Council of Europe convention suggests commercials during programmes should be severely curtailed and instead should be concentrated in "blocks" between programmes.

Similar proposals were also included in a new EEC document on broadcasting last month.

Commercial television chiefs, who provide 17 per cent of their advertising revenue to fund Channel 4 and SC4, estimate that the European plan would have serious financial consequences because of lost air time and payment for commercials.

Ms Sue Stoessl, head of marketing for Channel 4, said yesterday that advertising blocks, up to 12 minutes long, would reduce the general effectiveness of advertisements.

"The overall effect in the long term must be a reduction in revenue and that could pose real dangers."

The European proposals, if approved, would also make it more likely that a new fifth television channel would be financed by subscription rather than advertising.

Lulu lost baby

Lulu has lost the baby she was expecting in April. The singer, aged 39 and married to John Frieda for 12 years, was deeply upset but recovering, her agent said yesterday. The couple have a son, Jordan, aged 11.

Miner killed

A miner died after a roof collapsed underground in spite of rescue attempts by colleagues who dug with their hands to shift tons of rubble. Anthony Burridge, aged 28, of Clay Cross, Derbyshire, was found dead on Thursday night at Shireoaks Colliery, Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

Intensive care

Mrs Susan Piggott, the wife of the jailed former champion jockey, Lester Piggott, is likely to stay on a ventilator at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, for two weeks during treatment for injuries caused when her horse fell and crushed her.

Swept to glory

A council road sweeper so devoted to his job that he works on Christmas Day without pay, is having a road named after him in his home town of Southwell, Nottinghamshire — Ray Smith Close.

Murder trial

Peter Wright, a factory worker accused of murdering a girl aged 16, was yesterday committed for trial by Nottingham magistrates. Mr Wright, aged 31, of Giltbrook, Nottinghamshire, was arrested after Suzanne Edwards was found strangled.

Witness held

Elvis Gordon, Britain's Olympic judo hope, was discharged yesterday after spending a night in police cells, having failed to turn up as a witness in a theft case at Shrewsbury Crown Court. Gordon, aged 30, of Campion House, Heath Town, Wolverhampton, had gone instead for a vaccination to travel to Seoul.

Death on farm

A father watched as his son fell from a combine harvester and was crushed to death under its wheels. Mr Dudley Taylor had picked up his son Jonathan, aged 12, on the way back to his farm in Thirleby, near Hull, Humberside, on Thursday night.

Lion watch

An Oxford University zoology student, Elizabeth Frerichs, aged 21, is spending the Bank holiday weekend with 26 lions. Miss Frerichs, from Basingstoke, Hampshire, will live in a tree house 16 ft above the pride at Longleaf House studying the animals.

Holiday death

The body of Mr Peter Knowles, an executive with Windsor Cable Television, who drowned last Sunday while swimming off Oymabre beach in northern Spain will be flown home today. Mr Knowles, aged 40, was on holiday with his family.

Knife killing

Detectives were questioning a man yesterday after a teenage boy who was believed to be fishing was killed in a knife-attack next to the Grand Union Canal behind Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill, west London.

Defiant Bush makes comeback after two weeks of hell

For all the humiliation and bitter disappointments of the past two weeks, Vice-President George Bush is making an impressive comeback.

While the networks and newspapers heaped scorn upon his running mate, the battered Republican ticket surged defiantly in the polls and the wishy-washy Mr Bush demonstrated a rare defiance and cool nerve.

Short of any real scandals or new controversies, Senator Dan Quayle is not going to be dumped. Mr Bush can win the election with him, but probably not without him. Mr George McGovern discovered the fatal consequences of dropping his running mate, Thomas Eagleton, this close to

November, and Mr Bush is going to heed the quiet advice he received from President Reagan this week to soldier on.

In voters' minds the Quayle controversy does not matter much — yet. The press will continue pecking at it and public opinion could still become fired by the National Guard affair, the Senator's low academic achievements, the meaningless two years he spent in the House of Representatives, his modest performance as a senator, his over-fondness for disappearing to the golf links, and even the silly business of his once knowing — no more — a Playboy pin-up.

But up to now Mr Bush and Mr Quayle have emerged remarkably

intact from a hellish fortnight. The Republican ticket is ahead in the traditional strongholds of the South and West; the race seems to be neck-and-neck in the East and Midwest; Mr Bush has almost closed the gender gap; and more than four in 10 voters now think of Governor Michael Dukakis as a liberal, which is the kiss of death in large swathes of the country.

Mr Bush is looking better on the hustings. He defended Mr Quayle with a passion and zeal that made people listen. He is clearly emerging from President Reagan's shadow as he forcefully propounds the traditional Republican issues of patriotism, defence and foreign policy.

If anything, more questions are

being asked now about Mr Dukakis, who has refused to spell out detailed policies on the economy, defence, foreign affairs and domestic spending.

Nobody can quite understand why Mr Bush chose Senator Quayle. The Vice-President is

Washington View By Christopher Thomas

otherwise surrounded by men of great stature, and indeed the make-up of the top members of his Cabinet is now possible to predict. They are people with strong political, academic and, in some cases, business credentials. Most come from the same Republican

establishment that produced Mr Bush. None is the remotest bit like the young man from Indiana, whose achievements outside the golf course are decidedly mediocre.

President Reagan has brought some of Mr Bush's closest allies into the Cabinet, and most or all can be assured of reappointment to powerful posts in a Bush Administration. Mr Richard Thornburgh, the new Attorney General, is a graduate of Yale — like Mr Bush; Mr Nicholas Brady, the new Secretary of the Treasury, graduated from Yale and Harvard Law School; Mr Frank Carlucci, the Defence Secretary, graduated from Princeton and Harvard; and Mr Lauro Cavazos, the first

Hispanic in the Cabinet, a non-partisan figure, has a monumental academic background.

Mr James Baker, a graduate of Princeton and the University of Texas Law School, a former White House Chief of Staff and Treasury Secretary, now chairs Mr Bush's campaign. He is reasonably assured of being Secretary of State if Mr Bush wins.

Former Senator John Tower of Texas, a one-time professor of political science and a man of great political stature, is favourite to become Defence Secretary.

If, ultimately, people are policy, then Mr Bush has the makings of a powerful Administration. The one peculiarity is Mr Quayle, who is so embarrassingly outshone by all the

others in Mr Bush's immediate orbit. He would look like an outsider inside the White House. Why he was chosen as running mate is an increasing mystery. Mr Bush now has no choice but to hope that Mr Quayle rises to the occasion by keeping out of the way.

It is widely held that the Vice-President will in due course suffer for his choice, but it has not happened yet. The election campaign has pretty much returned to its previous steady course, and Mr Bush has every reason to hope it will continue that way unless there are more embarrassing stories about his running mate. And in the meantime, the opinion polls are looking better all the time.

Mass protest in Burma

National hero's daughter appeals for army support

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

More than half a million people gathered around Burma's holiest shrine, the Golden Shwedagon Pagoda, in Rangoon yesterday to hear the daughter of the country's national hero call on the Army to give the socialist Government a final push from power.

Demanding the Government's immediate resignation, Daw Aung San Su Kyi said that the people and the Army should unite to form an interim government that could be trusted to organize free elections.

Army support for the people, she said, would ease a chaotic situation and stop extremism. Democracy could be achieved only peacefully and if the Army and the people were united.

This 42-year-old intellectual has emerged overnight as a rallying figure for the dissidents. She has spent most of

her life outside Burma and is there now to visit her sick mother. She has an English husband and lives in England, but because her father, General Aung San, led Burma to independence 40 years ago the family name is magic.

Emphasizing the Army's vital role in the move towards democracy, she said that her father had created the Army to serve the people.

Only the Army and the people from all walks of life who have gone into the streets to demonstrate in the past month are now relevant, according to informed sources in Rangoon.

Government plans for a special meeting of the ruling Socialist Programme Party, discredited but still officially in power, were futile, Western diplomats said last night. And the proposed referendum to determine if the people

wanted democracy was ridiculed from the start.

The Army's attitude is unclear. Although small sections have deserted the regime, it is possible that General Ne Win, leader for 26 years, retains his influence over the Army. For that reason, anti-government groups say their victory will not be complete until he leaves Burma.

Rumours that his departure was imminent circulated again yesterday after the cancellation of a Burma Airways flight from Rangoon to Bangkok. There were suggestions that he had taken over the aircraft, but the cancellation was probably caused by airline and airport staffs joining the strike now paralysing all areas of Burma.

"It seems that no normal government administration is going on in Rangoon or other big cities," said a Western

diplomat. All forms of business have stopped as employees have joined the strike, places of education remain closed, there are no newspapers and television and radio services are curtailed.

Oil refinery workers are on strike and fuel shortages are imminent. Transport and communications are in chaos and even members of the ruling party have resigned from local councils. The dissidents say they believe the strike will break the Government within days.

Behind the euphoria, there are fears in anti-government groups about the worsening economic chaos, the looting and banditry, and the growing cries for vengeance against members of the regime.

One Rangoon resident said: "We might lose our way if this people's power is not pointed in the right direction."

US battle over defence



Mr Lloyd Bentsen speaking up for Democratic defence policies to war veterans in Chicago.

Washington — In a highly cautious policy statement on President Reagan's controversial Strategic Defence Initiative, or Star Wars, Vice-President George Bush gave a warning yesterday that full or partial deployment of the space-based defence system would depend on scientific and budgetary considerations (Christopher Thomas writes).

"If you went to a full deployment of a full strategic defence, it would be very expensive," Mr Bush said. "I want to continue research at the levels of funding, essentially, that we have requested."

The Reagan Administration this year requested more than \$4 billion (£2.3 billion) for Star Wars research, which the Democratic-controlled Congress cut.

Mr Bush's hedged support is in marked contrast to the official Republican Party position, which states emphatically: "We are committed to rapid and certain deployment of SDI as technologies permit,

and we will determine the exact architecture of the system as technologies are tested and proven."

The Vice-President's reservations also contrast with the unequivocal support for full deployment of Star Wars spelled out by Senator Dan Quayle, his hawkish running mate and member of the Senate armed services committee. The Republican Party's conservative wing is bound to be worried by what will be seen as Mr Bush's less than enthusiastic support for the programme, a cornerstone of its defence posture.

The Vice-President and Governor Michael Dukakis, the Democratic presidential contender, are sharply at odds over the Star Wars programme. Mr Dukakis said adamantly: "I think it's a fantasy and a fraud, and we ought to stop spending billions on it."

Defence issues are becoming increasingly important in the election battle. Apart from

opposing Star Wars, Mr Dukakis is also against the multi-warhead MX missile and the single-warhead Midgetman, both of which Mr Bush favours.

Senator Lloyd Bentsen, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate, was loudly booed when he mentioned Mr Dukakis's name in a speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Chicago — the same convention that earlier gave a tumultuous reception to Senator Quayle, his Republican counterpart.

"I am fed up with scurrilous charges about who is patriotic and who is strong on defence," Mr Bentsen told the veterans, most of whom were clearly sympathetic to the Republican Party's defence positions.

"Governor Dukakis is a veteran, a patriot and an advocate of American strength and steadfastness," Mr Bentsen said, adding that the Democrats did not favour defence cuts and supported a strong nuclear deterrent.

Aid sought by Burundi after tribal bloodbath

Nairobi (Renter) — Burundi has appealed for emergency aid to help 100,000 refugees it says need food, clothing, shelter and medicine after a wave of killings.

Diplomats contacted in Bujumbura, Burundi, said they could not be sure that the killings had ended. "The situation is rather confused," said one Western diplomat. "On one hand the President says everything is calm, but then there are other statements about pockets of resistance or people in hiding."

The Burundi authorities have accused Burundi émigrés of provoking inter-tribal bloodshed earlier this month, but refugees streaming out of the country have told stories of large-scale butchery by the armed forces.

The Burundi Government, requesting outside help after a bloodbath in which it says 5,000 people died, told of houses burnt, crops destroyed, and shortages of food, clothes, tents and medicine, the diplomat said.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry, in a circular to embassies in Bujumbura on Thursday, said a three-month international effort was needed to help life get back to normal in the areas where the killings had occurred.

Another diplomatic source said discussions were going on among Western government representatives on the need for an impartial international observer team to visit the northern areas where the massacres had happened.

Mr Léo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Affairs Minister, called in the Burundi Ambassador on Wednesday to press for international observers to be allowed in.

The diplomatic source said the US Embassy in Bujumbura had proposed instead that a team of representatives of Western embassies in the former Belgian colony should visit the trouble areas.

GENEVA: More than 47,000 refugees from Burundi are sheltering in camps in Rwanda and about 1,000 more are arriving daily, a spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday.

Leading article, page 9

Political furore over hostage fiasco

From John England, Bonn

A week after West German police brought a hostage drama to a bloody end costing the lives of two teenage captives, allegations that the police and their political masters made fatal errors have not been dispelled. Two state parliaments are investigating the affair amid calls for the resignation of the two Interior Ministers involved.

The first victim of the 54-hour drama was Emanuele de Giorgi, a 15-year-old Italian, who was one of 25 passengers on a bus hijacked in Bremen by two gunmen. He was shot in the head after police overpowered and briefly held the men's woman accomplice at a restaurant on the Bremen-Hamburg autobahn.

The second hostage to die was Silke Bischof, aged 18, a girl from Bremen who was shot in the heart by one of the gangsters when a special police unit ambushed their getaway car on the Cologne-Frankfurt autobahn near Bonn.

Another hostage, Ines Voitele, also aged 18, suffered a flesh wound in the back in the hail of police bullets. She has claimed that the police fired wildly without regard for the hostages.

An uncle of the dead girl has filed charges accusing the police of causing her

death by negligence. Police in Bremen and Cologne have been accused of missing chances to put the gunmen — Hans-Jürgen Rösner, aged 31, and Dieter Degowski, aged 32 — out of action before they could kill their hostages.

But in what has become a blatantly opportunistic political row, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and many other conservative politicians have censured the two responsible Social Democratic state Interior Ministers for allegedly hamstringing their senior police officers.

Some have demanded that the ministers — Herr Herbert Schnoor, of North Rhine-Westphalia, and Herr Bernd Meyer, of Bremen — should resign.

The hostage drama began early on Tuesday of last week, when Rösner and Degowski tried to rob a small bank in Gladbeck, near Essen.

They were seen by a local doctor and the bank was quickly surrounded by 200 policemen, including marksmen. But the gunmen held the police off by threatening to kill two hostages, and 14 hours later they drove away in a getaway car provided by police, together with the hostages and £130,000. It was another 40 hours before police stopped them.

During that time the gangsters drove around the Ruhr and northern Germany, switched cars several times, hijacked the Bremen bus, killed the Italian boy, and steered the bus into The Netherlands.

They then returned to West Germany with the two girl hostages in another car provided by the police, and stopped in Cologne "for a rest", during which they gave interviews to reporters.

Herr Schnoor is under fire for not allowing police to "immobilize" the gangsters when they left the bank; for a lack of action in Cologne; and for not accepting the federal offer of help from the GSG9 anti-terrorist unit.

Herr Meyer is blamed for police bungling over the ill-timed arrest of the gunmen's accomplice, Marion Löfflich, which led to the death of the boy. Examination of the boy's body has revealed that he was not killed outright. His death could have been prevented had not an ambulance taken about 20 minutes to reach the scene.

Some heads, if not those of the two ministers, may roll over the tragic hostage affair. But it is expected to lead to an agreement on better police handling of such episodes in future.

Botha basks in praises of his model township

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town

President Botha of South Africa was greeted by several hundred cheering and flag-waving black women and schoolchildren yesterday when he paid a carefully staged and heavily policed visit to the notorious Crossroads squatter settlement, near Cape Town's airport.

His brief excursion into the heart of darkness — it was only the third time he had entered a black area outside the tribal reserves since becoming Prime Minister 10 years ago — was lightened by a buffet lunch of cold lobster and smoked salmon, and an African choir chanting his praises.

"You are the leader, we will follow you, let's get together, we are one family," the track-suited choir sang to a backing of skin drums and a wooden xylophone.

Mr Botha, his Homburg clamped firmly on his head, beamed and almost shuffled his feet in time to the music.

"Got a wonderful sense of rhythm, these Africans," an irreverent voice remarked.

Mr Botha's purpose in visiting Crossroads was to open an African training centre for blacks. The centre was erected on part of the squatter settlement, once home to more than 100,000 people housed in densely packed shacks.

Crossroads was razed to the ground two years ago in savage fighting between rival squatter factions.

Mr Botha's host was Mr Johnson Ngobongwana, a well-known local gang leader and vigilante boss the Government is grooming to become Mayor of a model, rebuilt Crossroads township inhabited by a much-reduced number of decile and obedient

blacks of the kind Mr Botha regards as "responsible". The Government's plans ran into a small snag some while ago when Mr Ngobongwana's appointment as mayor was struck down as illegal by the Supreme Court.

But Pretoria's social engineers are not easily deflected, and Mr Ngobongwana is operating as chairman

Johannesburg — The Pretoria-appointed transitional Government of Namibia has called for talks with the South-West African People's Organization, whose guerrilla wing has been fighting for independence for the territory for more than 20 years (Ray Kennedy writes).

Swapo has boycotted contact with the Government, regarding it as a puppet.

Meanwhile reports here said that the US-mediated Angolan and Namibian peace talks involving South Africa, Angola and Cuba in Brazzaville, the Congo Republic, were bogged down over the Cuban withdrawal timetable.

of the interim advisory board of Crossroads.

Mr Ngobongwana's widow, who is called because of the white bands they wear round their heads — were the victorious faction in the 1986 fighting, which resulted in the expulsion from Crossroads of militant youths belonging to the United Democratic Front organization.

The police were widely alleged to have sided with the "wildcat" gangs to drive out the "comrades", as members of the rival group styled themselves. In a court case that has been dragging on for nearly a year,

21 former Crossroads families whose shacks were destroyed by the vigilantes are suing the Minister of Law and Order for 312,000 rands (£75,000). If they win their case, some 5,000 other plaintiffs may also put in claims for more than 5 million rands.

During the trial, journalists, photographers and church and medical workers, as well as many former Crossroads residents, have testified that the vigilantes were given police cover as they burnt down the shacks of their rivals.

About 60,000 squatters lost their homes in the fighting. Some have been re-housed at a new segregated black township, some 15 miles to the south-east of Crossroads, on bleak, windswept sand dunes along the shore of False Bay.

Others have set up new shanty towns, and still others are in temporary, tented camps awaiting new housing.

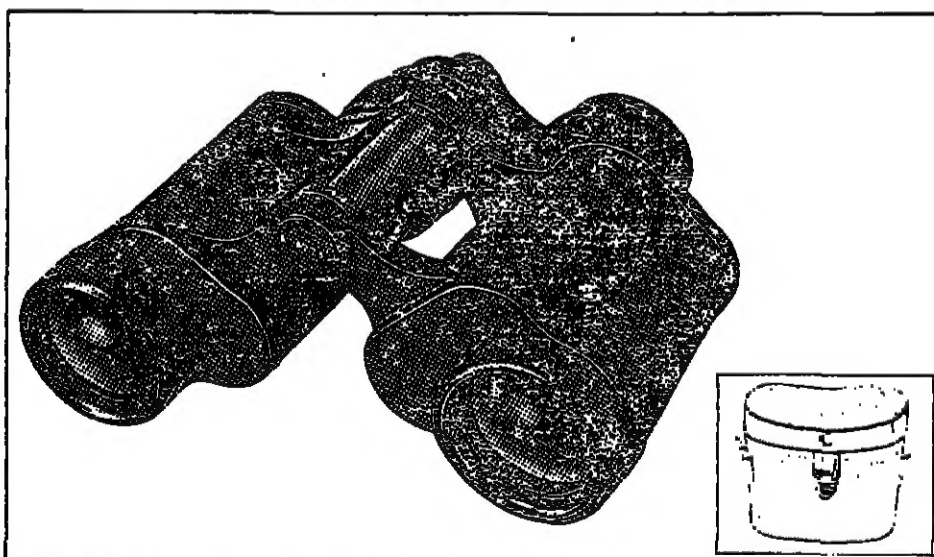
Government officials say some 35,000 people may eventually be housed in the re-developed Crossroads.

"I hope those who are trying to belittle our country will come here and see what can be done if they leave us alone," Mr Botha declared in response to a speech of welcome from Mr Ngobongwana.

JOHANNESBURG: Alfred Makeleng, aged 27, a black union organizer detained without charge for 26 months died in hospital yesterday, three days after collapsing in his cell, police said (AFP reports).

The Congress of South African Trade Unions, the largest black labour federation, demanded that the authorities explain and said its lawyers were investigating.

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Polish Government told legalization of Solidarity is key to future

Walesa offers talks to find a way out of 'permanent crisis'

From Richard Bassett, Gdansk

The leader of the banned Solidarity union, Mr Lech Walesa, said yesterday that he was prepared to start a dialogue with the Government on the current wave of industrial unrest, if there were "no preconditions".

In a statement issued yesterday afternoon in Gdansk, one of the three main centres of the strikes which have gripped the country, Mr Walesa said the dialogue between both sides was necessary for Poland's future.

"I am ready to start talking at any moment without any limitations concerning the areas of such a dialogue," Mr Walesa said. Solidarity activists said Mr Walesa was not demanding the removal of riot police cordons around strike-hit premises.

Mr Walesa said that the legalization of Solidarity was the "key to the future of all political initiatives. This has been proved by the fact that this is already the second strike demanding Solidarity's legalization this year".

The Solidarity leader went on: "We wish for Poland to escape the fate of existing in a permanent state of crisis." He also added that talks should involve representatives of Poland's Roman Catholic Church.

He said that talks with the Government should focus on three main issues: trade union pluralism and the legalization of Solidarity; social and political pluralism; and the development of an "anti-crisis pact" involving all parties.

Mr Walesa condemned the use of force to break strikes and said he hoped such incidents would not be repeated.

His statement, made one day after talks with the Catholic Church mediator, Professor Andrzej Stelmachowski, was conveyed by other church mediators back to Warsaw.

Meanwhile, in the Silesian coal mines, where the strikes began more than a week ago, the situation remained tense.

Only three mines out of the 12 initially involved were continuing the strike, but in one of them, the Manifest Lipcowy colliery at Jastrzebie, miners were reported to have barricaded themselves in to avoid being forced out by militiamen.

Tough action by the riot police during the past three nights has forced most of the miners there to abandon the strike.

In Gdansk, the director of the port authority warned workers yesterday that unless he received undertakings that they would return to work, those on strike would be dismissed and two parts of the port closed.

To the anger of many Solidarity supporters and the dismay of other Poles, the port authorities refused yesterday to allow the Norwegian ship M.S. Bolleto, which was loaded with medical and food supplies, to dock.

Father Henryk Jankowsky, the parish priest of St Brygda's church, which has adopted the Solidarity cause, said that this showed that Church-state relations were not all one might wish.

● Bishops' call: Roman Catholic bishops urged the Government yesterday to abandon the use of force to end the strikes (Reuters reports).

A statement issued after a meeting of diocesan bishops said "violations of human rights and the dignity of human labour" were the root cause of the country's worst labour troubles since martial law crushed unrest in 1981.

"The strikes are the symptom of a disease which has been developing for years," the bishops said.



A striking Polish miner talking to his wife and daughter through the perimeter fence at the July Manifesto colliery in Jastrzebie yesterday. At a neighbouring pit, the miners were reported to have barricaded themselves inside to prevent militiamen from forcing them out.

Setback to Gorbachov reforms

Security forces get broad new powers

Moscow (Reuters) — The Soviet Union has granted broad powers to interior Ministry troops in a little publicized decree which political activists believe will anger supporters of Kremlin reforms.

The decree authorizes interior Ministry troops to search the homes of suspected law-breakers without a warrant, to suppress mass demonstrations and work stoppages, to conduct spot identity checks, and to use firearms in exceptional cases.

Adopted by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on July 28, the decree has not been published in the mass media. Another decree adopted the same day, requiring advance permission for demonstrations, was published at once.

The decree on interior Ministry troops appeared in an August issue of the limited-circulation *Bulletin of the Supreme Soviet*, and it post-dated by several weeks the last known use of these troops to control public disturbances.

"This extraordinary decree on the rights of the Army's internal forces abolishes the inviolability of the home," Mr Yuri Mityunov, a spokesman for the Democratic Union, an unofficial group of human rights activists, said yesterday. "Our legal experts are astonished, because it is impossible to understand how this decree was adopted without any prior discussion. This is bound to provoke a scandal in the Soviet press."

The ministry's troops were sent into Armenia in July as hundreds of thousands demonstrated in Yerevan to demand an end to Azerbaijani rule over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

A youth was shot dead and 35 people were injured in clashes between demonstrators and the troops near Yerevan's airport during a blockade by the protesters.

Interior Ministry troops were used in 1962 to suppress a factory revolt in the southern Russian city of Novocherkassk. According to un-

Geneva (AP) — A Romanian working as a human rights investigator for the UN, Mr Dumitru Mazilu, has denied Romanian claims that he is too ill to leave the country. He urged a UN sub-commission to ask Bucharest to put an end to "repressive measures and police terror" against him and his family.

official accounts, 80 people were killed when they opened fire on unarmed demonstrators.

Soviet sources said that the interior Ministry force had mainly been used in the past to protect sensitive installations and to patrol labour camps and prisons. Most crowd control, including identity checks, has been handled by the police.

Analysts said the headline decree appeared to conform with the spirit of Kremlin reforms only to the degree that it spelled out the powers of the troops for the first time.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, has condemned the practice of handing down decrees without public consultation. At the June party conference he called for increased control over security forces to prevent abuses. The Soviet legal system must "guarantee strict observance of the rights of citizens to the inviolability of their private life and home," he said.

The decree authorizes the troops "to enter homes and enterprises, organizations and institutions, in pursuit of people suspected of crimes and also to suppress crimes or violations threatening public order or the personal security of citizens".

Zia party splits in squabble over leadership

By Our Foreign Staff

The Pakistan Muslim League, which governed from 1986 to last May under President Zia, split yesterday, nine days after his death in a plane crash.

A faction of Zia protégés, including at least six cabinet ministers, met to choose a new party president and secretary-general as the rival faction, led by Mr Mohammad Khan Junjo, dismissed as Prime Minister by Zia last May, said that the meeting was illegal.

The split in the party came as Miss Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition Pakistan People's Party, said that she was not only prepared to form an electoral alliance with other opposition parties, but also to reach an accord with them on a national government.

Her call for the formation of a government of national reconciliation "for the reconstruction of the country" is a significant shift from her previous position of refusing to form any electoral alliance.

The Muslim League's split also followed a statement on Thursday by the new Army Chief of Staff who threw his support openly behind the elections which have been scheduled for November 16.

General Mirza Aslam Beg told senior officers that the armed forces, which have ruled for more than half Pakistan's 41 years of existence, should stay out of politics.

Mr Junjo welcomed General Beg's remarks. "I think it is a positive statement by a general," he said. "I think he wanted to give a forthright guideline to the military."

Zia had chosen Mr Junjo to head a civilian administration in 1985 after non-party elections boycotted by the opposition.

The Muslim League was formed under Mr Junjo's leadership when Zia lifted martial law at the end of 1985, and a large majority of MPs joined at once.

It took its name from the revered party which campaigned for the creation of Pakistan on the ending of British colonial rule 1947.

Members said that the party leadership had been offered to acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the Senate chairman, in an attempt to bridge the gap. He had declined.

The breakaway faction includes the Chief Ministers of Pakistan's four provinces, appointed by Zia after the unexpected sacking of the Junjo Government on May 29.

They elected the former Governor of the North West Frontier Province, Mr Fida Mohammad Khan, as president, and the powerful Punjab Chief Minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif, as secretary-general.

The party was expected to be the main challenger to Miss Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party in the elections, although the ground rules have yet to be laid down. The key is whether polls should be held on a party basis.

Observers said that Miss Bhutto stood to gain if the factions fought at the polls.

Miss Bhutto yesterday called for a government of reconciliation, saying that with Zia's death, the era of confrontation between the Government and the Opposition had come to an end.

She offered her full co-operation to Mr Ishaq Khan.

Miss Bhutto declared that the armed forces were not interested in involving themselves in politics again, but expressed concern that some cabinet ministers, who had been associated with Zia's martial law regime and who did not have electoral constituencies, might attempt to sabotage election plans.



Mr Junjo: Claims meeting to pick president was illegal.

By-election defeat delivers blow to Mahathir policies

Kuala Lumpur (AP) — Datak Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, suffered a serious political setback yesterday when his new party sustained a crushing by-election defeat.

Some diplomats said the defeat of the New United Malays National Organization in a key parliamentary by-election might encourage MPs opposed to the Prime Minister to resign their seats to force a national election.

However, others said Dr Mahathir was strongly entrenched and, even if national elections were held, he was likely to return to power, albeit with fewer seats in the 177-seat Parliament.

"It is a victory for democracy and the Malay national struggle," Mr Shahrir Abdul Samad said after winning the Johore Bahru constituency with 12,613 votes.

Mr Masud Abdul Rahman, the candidate of New UMNO, took 10,968 votes, while Mr Abdul Razak Ahmad, acting chairman of the opposition People's Social Party of Malaysia, won 2,260 votes.

Mr Sharif, formerly Welfare Services Minister under Dr Mahathir in 1987, resigned from the Johore Bahru seat last month, saying he would challenge the Prime Minister's policies by holding new elections in the constituency.

During the election campaign Mr Sharif, supported by Malaysia's first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, aged 85, attacked Dr Mahathir's policies, including the arrest and detention without trial of 106 people under the Internal Security Act last year and the recent dismissal of Malaysia's highest ranking judge, Chief Justice Mohammad Salleh Abbas.

Dr Mahathir made no immediate comment after the election results were announced. During the 10-day campaign, he denied accusations that he was leading the country towards dictatorship.

He also ignored calls for a change in leadership style. "I will not change. I will continue to do what I have planned to do along with my colleagues."

Of the 177 seats in Parliament, the opposition Democratic Action Party holds 24, while 20 seats are held by supporters of Tunku Razaleigh Haniff. The number of Malay dissent MPs in sympathy with Tunku Razaleigh varies according to issues.

Dr Mahathir and his coalition partners control 133 seats, with dissenting MPs changing their allegiance depending on the issue in hand.

Dr Mahathir has been the Prime Minister since July 1981, and was also president of the now defunct United Malays National Organization, declared illegal earlier this year because some branches were not properly registered. He swiftly renamed the party, alienating some politicians, and charges that his win in 1987 was invalid.

The UMNO headed the 13-party National Front coalition in power since independence from Britain in 1957.

FROM A VILLAGE IN THE HIMALAYAS

Taji Ram goes to seek his fortune in town

By Victor Zorza and Venu Sandal

The village, always curious about any departure from tradition, wondered how long the marriage would last. Custom allows men to leave much of the work to the women, but Taji Ram and Mimo were different: they shared their tasks between them.

Of course, they didn't divide their work equally. It wouldn't occur to anyone to question the men's right to gossip for hours in the temple square, or to sit outside their hut smoking a *hookah*, while the women toiled.

Taji Ram and Mimo were among the first to leave the village at dawn every day, usually long before the others. On some mornings they would go down to their fields and do the weeding until the sun grew unbearably hot. On other mornings, Mimo would stay in the village to pound the rice in a stone mortar while Taji Ram went up the mountain to cut grass for their cattle. With the care they lavished on their buffaloes, the animals were soon yielding more milk. In time husband and wife were able to put by enough grain to tide them over a couple of lean years. Their unremitting toil was bringing them closer to their goal of having a large surplus.

But it was years before Taji Ram's hopes were fulfilled and food ceased to be a problem. With plentiful stocks of grain, Taji Ram felt he had achieved as much as any villager could, and became increasingly restless. Soon he knew that he must leave the village and seek his fortune elsewhere. He confided in Tika Ram, his younger brother. In Taji Ram's new dream, Mimo would stay in the village and work the land, hiring help with the money he sent from town.

Tika Ram, steady and cautious, was apprehensive. "You now have plenty here," he argued. "Why face the uncertainty of life outside? Our skills are not wanted there." The few who had ventured out had become hired hands, working for others. "Why give up your freedom? Here you are your own master."

Taji Ram stuck to his idea with the same tenacity he had displayed when facing difficult times. He had, with Mimo's help, banished the spectre of poverty. But could he, Tika Ram asked, expect to succeed yet again? And would Mimo stand by him?

That night the village listened in startled disbelief. Taji Ram and Mimo, who had never been known to quarrel in all their years together, were shouting at each other. In the still night the whole village heard every word.

Next day, as gossip mongers gathered to discuss the couple's quarrel, several villagers cornered a truculent Taji Ram. "Mimo and your brother are right about your leaving, their reasons are sounder than yours," one of them told him flatly. "Your roots are here, you belong here, why do you provoke fate? Does one ever step down the hillside without making sure there is steady ground under one's feet?"

"You are the same people talking who never grasp the chances that come your way. You are always against change," Taji Ram retorted. "When my buffaloes finish grazing one patch of grass, they look for another. I have done all I could here. It's time for me to move on."

"You are forgetting, Taji Ram, that along with your obligations to Mimo, your boy, and the child she is carrying, you also have a responsibility towards this village," Sabla, the oldest temple priest, told him. "Tomorrow more and more village youngsters will say: 'Taji Ram has gone, so we too are going.' Young people are like sheep who follow blindly," Sabla said. "How will we stop them? Before long there will be nobody here but the old men and women and babies. It has happened in villages across the river."

Taji Ram remained unmoved in spite of all the arguments and Mimo's desperate tears. He left the next morning, with nothing but a small bag slung on his shoulder. "We have lost a good lad," a village elder said. They shook their heads sadly as he disappeared round a bend in the path. What, everyone asked, would become of Mimo and the children?

Some were willing to wager 500 walnuts — a high stake as village bets go — that he would never come back for good. Others bet five rupees (about 20p), a quarter of the daily wage, that Taji Ram, with his limited village schooling, would be unable to find work. Unemployed, homeless, he would have to return.

But not a single villager was prepared to bet that Taji Ram would succeed in town, get a job, and send money for his family. Except Mimo. Now reconciled to Taji Ram's departure, she began talking to village women of the day he would come to take her to town with him.

When he did reappear, the villagers were astonished. He was a man transformed. The village soon felt the effects of the change — and Mimo most of all.

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Next Saturday: Taji Ram's new ways unsettle the village

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Matador gored

Madrid — Spain's bullfight sensation of the year, Manuel Ruiz, known as Manili, remained seriously ill in an Almeria hospital yesterday after being badly gored by his second bull of the afternoon on Thursday (Harry Debelius writes).

The injury, which happened at a bullfight in Almeria, interrupted a summer of stardom for the matador, aged 36, following his triumph at the important annual San Isidro bullfight series in Madrid last May.

Visit vetoed Ferry tragedy

Hong Kong (AFP) — The Hong Kong Government will not allow human rights groups to inspect the condition of Vietnamese "boat people" in a detention camp here because of security reasons. Camp inmates have complained of beatings.

Tourist fears

Santa Teresa (Reuters) — Hundreds of tourists were evacuated from three holiday villages in northern Sardinia when fire, blamed on arsonists, swept through scrubland near here.

Measles toll

Harare (AFP) — About 40 children of members of Zimbabwe's fundamentalist Apostolic faith, which rejects all medical treatment, have reportedly died from measles.

Aid for Nepal

Brussels (AFP) — The EEC sent about £194,000 to Nepal to help finance transport of international aid to victims of Sunday's earthquake which left 673 people dead.

Crash landing

Geneva (AP) — An aircraft chartered by the Red Cross to repatriate Ethiopian and Somali prisoners of war and civilian internees, crashed-landed at Djibouti airport, injuring 20 of the 190 people on board.

Heart tests

The Greek Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu, aged 69, who arrived unexpectedly in London for heart tests, is to undergo a week of further examination.

Sects clash

Srinagar (AFP) — At least two men were killed by police as rival Muslim sects clashed for a fourth day in a row in this Indian town. At least 70 people were hurt.

The uneasy ceasefire in the Gulf

Kurds threaten to arrest UN observers

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, Geneva

The often forgotten wild card in the Iran-Iraq conflict — the Kurdish resistance — yesterday threatened to arrest United Nations observers monitoring the Gulf War ceasefire.

With the delegations from the two capitals locked in a second day of indirect talks under United Nations auspices, the Kurds were determined not to be overlooked in any peace settlement. Their threat was co-ordinated with a demonstration by 200 chanting, banner-waving representatives of the four main Kurdish organizations outside Geneva's Palais des Nations.

Mr Jalal Talabani, secretary-general of the Kurdistan Patriotic Union, sent an envoy to Geneva to ask Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-

General, to intercede with Baghdad.

His organization, in common with the others, claimed that the Iraqi forces had used the ceasefire with Iran to step up military operations against the Kurds.

"There will be no peace in Iraq or in the region without having a just and comprehensive solution to the Kurdish question," he said in a message.

United Nations observers would not be able to carry out their mission along the Kurdish part of the Iran-Iraq frontier while the conflict continued, he said. "We informed the Secretary-General... that we will not consider ourselves responsible for the safety of (UN) forces," he said.

His envoy, Mr Ahmad Bamarni, added that the UN Blue Berets would not be attacked deliberately but would be liable to arrest.

"Anyone who enters into the area without our authorization will be arrested," Mr Salah Jmhor, who said he was the Kurdish representative to the United Nations, said that 33 foreigners, with nationalities ranging from Russian to Italian, had been arrested in Kurdistan, but had been released subsequently.

Most were engineers or advisers working for the Iraqi Government.

He added that another organization representing Kurds in Iran, the Kurdistan Democratic Party, had sent a message to the Secretary-General calling for an autonomous region to be established.

Outside, demonstrators danced to Kurdish music and waved banners in four languages protesting against Iraqi attacks. Mr Jemal Serhad, representing the Kurdish National Liberation Front, said:

"Every day Iraqi forces kill on average 100 of our people, and yet hardly anything is heard about it in Europe."

Yesterday's Iran-Iraq contacts remained as indirect as they had been the previous evening. Only the first 2½ hours of the first meeting on Thursday were spent in the same room, and even then the two foreign ministers addressed the Secretary-General rather than each other.

From then on, the two ministers met Señor Pérez de Cuéllar alternately. The pattern continued yesterday, and a lunch break which was to have lasted two hours was extended to three and a half hours.

A UN spokesman said that this was "normal" and did not mean that the talks were not going to plan.

British chance to gamble on Iraq economy

From Michael Hamlyn, Baghdad

If Britain wants to take commercial advantage of the end of the Gulf War, the Government is going to have to gamble.

When Mr Tony Newton, the new Minister of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, arrives here at the beginning of November, he will be told that the only way British traders will increase their stake in this potentially rich but debt-ridden country is if he increases the amount of export credit guarantees the Government will make available.

Individual traders are unable to take the risk of Baghdad defaulting on their payments, so they will in many cases ask the Treasury to do so.

The trade is here, ready to be taken. Though competition may be fierce, Britain still has a residual legacy of respect for its products. Export Credit

Guarantees for the current 12 months are running at £175 million, but British manufacturers believe they could have done with £500 million. Once the war is well and truly over, the possibilities will increase startlingly.

Iraq, despite the eight-year hostilities, has not entirely stopped spending on development, but to do so and fund its war effort at the same time it has gone deeply into debt. The estimates are that the country owes \$30 billion (£17.65 billion) to OECD countries and another \$30 billion to Opec countries.

Some expect that the Arab creditors will feel their money has been well spent paying for the defence of the Arab nation against the Iranian threat.

There is some indication that, for example, Japan is not going to let the \$3 billion it is owed stand in the way of pursuing new sales. Turkey, Iraq's biggest trading partner, has refused to

allow the construction of another oil pipeline through its territory until progress is made on clearing up the money it is owed.

But Britain, the fifth largest trading partner behind the United States, the Soviet Union and West Germany, has not been badly treated and debt repayments have been made. In fact, there are some smiling faces among the British community now as bills have recently been met.

Indications of buoyancy in the Iraqi commercial situation have been growing for some time, even before the ceasefire. The shape of the economy has been changing as the dominance of the public sector is gradually being challenged.

The private sector, previously starved of import licences and external finance, has for the past 12 months been liberated. The Iraqi Government has privatized various industries, such as Iraqi Airways, and

big collective agricultural complexes. Attention is now being focused on what the Government here decides are going to be its priorities.

The expectation is that money will first of all be spent on rebuilding the oil industry, potentially the source of huge amounts of cash. The war has prevented Iraq from transporting all it could pump, and accordingly much has been spent on designing and building new pipelines.

More will need to be spent, and the Iraqis also plan to build a series of offshore oil terminals along the Gulf coast. These will enable Iraqi oil almost to double its present pumping (about 2.7 million barrels a day).

There is likely to be a further programme of increasing power generation, both thermal and hydroelectric, for Iraq also exports electricity, and British companies involved in this field are already looking at these possibilities.

Spanish flag starts a riot



Spanish riot police cornering a Basque radical in the centre of Bilbao yesterday after hundreds of separatist Euzkadi guerrilla sympathizers tried to tear down the Spanish flag from the city hall.

Seven people were detained but there were no injuries, according to local officials (Reuters reports).

Trouble broke out when several hundred youths gathered at the city hall to shout their disapproval at the Span-

ish flag being raised along with the city, provincial and regional flags in a ceremony marking the city's week-long festival.

Groups of youths tried to force their way into the city hall to remove the Spanish flag, throwing stones at the windows and fighting riot police trying to disperse them.

A bomb exploded overnight under a policeman's parked car in the city, damaging the car and breaking windows nearby but caused no injuries. Police said they suspected that an Eta terror group had planted the device.

A constitutional rule that the Spanish flag should fly alongside regional flags from official buildings has frequently caused friction during summer festivals in the Basque country. Young Basque sympathizers with Eta's separatist aims often try to remove the Spanish flag from public buildings.

Villagers say gas attacks killed 88

By Hazhir Teimourian

At least 88 Kurdish hill farmers and their families died in Iraqi gas attacks on their villages on Wednesday, according to reports yesterday.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party, one of the two main autonomist parties of the Kurds of northern Iraq, said that another 500 civilians were wounded, many critically, and thousands of livestock were destroyed.

The news was relayed to Europe yesterday through a network of radio transmitters set up in the remote hill region.

A member of the party leadership told *The Times* the

attacks were carried out on 11 villages in the districts of Zakho, Dahok and Shaqlawa.

These towns have often been used in the past as gathering points for Iraqi offensives against the rural heartland of Iraqi Kurdistan, the rebels' stronghold.

"Our people have no protection against chemical weapons," he said.

"We appeal to the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to offer the victims whatever humanitarian help they can through the Turkish Red Cross."

Letter from Baghdad

Fabled city fails to cast a spell

As the dying day turns the River Tigris from silver to copper-gold and back to lead, the Baghdad people enjoy the air cooling gradually after the fierce afternoon.

It is difficult to know what the temperature gets to, because like much else in Iraq it is a military secret and is not banded about by promiscuous street corner clocks as in other countries.

Also perhaps because when it gets to 50°C (122°F) work is officially regarded as impossible and everyone can go home. You would not want that to happen in time of war.

In fact, only half the populace takes the air at this time of night, for the women are virtually invisible. The streets are thronged only with men.

In the parks by the river, there are some poorer class women sitting with their children, and on the thoroughfares a few Westernized wives walk brazenly hand in hand with their husbands, or more demurely half a pace behind.

This invisibility is, of course, not unusual in more traditional Islamic societies and even in Pakistan a visitor from Mars might think there was only one sex on the planet.

But Iraq has a reputation for being a reasonably liberal society — at least as far as women's rights are concerned — and women can certainly be seen often in Western clothes during office hours, waiting for buses and competing for taxis.

There is another odd thing. Nobody speaks to strangers. Partly it may be a product of isolation, of not having the language to greet the foreigner with, but further east among the teeming millions of India a foreigner frequently may be uncomfortably besieged in the streets with cries of "Where you from?", "What country?", and "You wanna change dollars?"

Here there would probably be more money to be made by the illegal money-changer than in the sub-continent, for the official rate is nearly four times higher than the black market rate.

At the official rates, for instance, a shirt in a hotel shop is on sale at something approaching £140. But no one offers. Perhaps because the punishments are too draconian, perhaps because the end of the war means that the margin is diminishing. Perhaps, too, it is a general reluctance to be seen chatting to foreigners in a country that has been at war for eight years.

Eventually an offer may be made by a hotel boy, who conspiratorially edges into the room, but who may be an agent provocateur (there is a rumour that all the rooms are bugged anyway) and who in any case will not take travellers' cheques.

Back on the riverbank, the signs of war are few. Wire netting lining seems to be designed to prevent people getting into the river rather than mounting an assault on the city from the water. But the signs saying "No Photography" are ominous.

The loudest noise is the flap of dominoes, backgammon pieces and draughtsmen on to boards from a café where everybody is playing one game or another.

That noise is suddenly drowned however by the booming of a gun, a cannon at least, from the other bank. The gun is fired 101 times at the time of prayers (which includes a session at 5 am) through the day. It celebrates the ceasefire by saluting the honoured dead.

Baghdad is not the city of the Arabian Nights. It is a city of rather brutal poured-concrete architecture, brown and massive. There are motorways and overpasses, and indeed road building has scarcely halted during the war.

There is some colour from the hundreds of paintings of President Saddam Hussein, in uniform, in civilian clothes, looking fierce, looking bold, looking shy, dressed as a field marshal. There is some more colour from the handsomely decorated mosques. But there does not seem to be much romance.

Michael Hamlyn



Evening Standard

THURSDAY, 25 AUGUST, 1988

Marching as to war

TOO MANY trade union leaders still take the attitude that the only way they can cut a dash in Mrs Thatcher's Britain is by encouraging their members to go on strike. So we have the miserable spectacle...

...not so in the Post Office, where Mr Alan Tuffin of the Union of Communication Workers has instigated post office staff to take industrial action over a dispute so irrational that it would drive any management to despair. Despite the success of its efficiency measures, the Post Office is still dogged by the effects of a tremendous staff turnover in the South, especially among new recruits. It has therefore introduced pay supplements of between £7.50 and £20 a week at 55 post offices in London and the South-east in order to encourage recruitment. The UCU wants supplements to be paid throughout the country or not at all.

Reeling at the illogicality of this, the Post Office has offered to withdraw the supplements and replace them with other kinds of flexible pay arrangements. The concept of flexibility to Mr Tuffin's union is like a red rag to a bull. UCU strike instructions, which could mean anything from work-to-rule to 24-hour national stoppages, will lead, says Mr Tuffin, to the "complete disruption" of postal services throughout Britain. Has it occurred to Mr Tuffin and his executive that trade unions should be about striving to gain workers rather than lose them? Obviously not. No wonder the managing director of Royal Mail Letters describes the whole thing as crack-ers.

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THE UNION OF COMMUNICATION WORKERS INTENDS TO TAKE INDUSTRIAL ACTION WHICH WILL DISRUPT POSTAL SERVICES. HERE IS AN INDEPENDENT VIEW OF THE ISSUES BEHIND THE DISPUTE.



Royal Mail

TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

Barbados

This amiable and sporting island is riddled with controversy. I mean, how could any sane man believe that Rita genuinely beat "Awesome" John King? The sporting contest we are discussing is the Pico-de-Crop Calypso Competition, the most prestigious event at the Cropover Festival.

King was the favourite, and his victory seemed a formality. But soon there was trouble in the Untouchables tent. The people there complained about the suitability of the judges. The Untouchables withdrew their own semi-finalist, Miss B and Red Plastic Bag. Two more calypsonians were promoted. But then from minor shock to major earth shake: it was Rita who carried the day. King a mere second.

Now the judges are complaining about comments made on their decision by members of the National Cultural Foundation. There are reports that the NCF want to see the individual judges' marks. Meanwhile, King has announced his retirement from competition, though he will continue as a songwriter. I'm glad to hear this is the column that has special affection for "Awesome" John King.

The headline in my Barbados Advocate reads: "Blades Bags Beaver-trick". This was a cricket story, and I confess I was baffled, until I read that medium-pacer Roger Blades of St Catherine took four wickets in four balls in a match against the Wanderers. Clearly Blades is another awesome man, but I am left speculating on the etymology of the phrase.

Sir Gary Sobers of Barbados is probably the finest cricketer who ever played, but who is the finest golfing cricketer? Sobers, who plays off a four handicap, recently played a match against former England captain Ted Dexter, who plays off three and has twice won the President's Putter, the Calypso golf event. Sobers is a magnificent hitter with what he calls "a controlled hook". He has been known to say that if he had his time again he would be a professional golfer, on the grounds that you can't have your day spoiled by dropped catches in golf; you take all the praise and all the blame to yourself. However, on this occasion, Sobers came second.

I have just been given a red-hot tip for the Barbados Derby, to be run on September 10. The horse to go for is Cruise Missile. The tip was given to me by the Minister for Sport and Tourism, Wes Hall, who is also a former scourge of English betsmen. Hall is not unbiased — he owns Cruise Missile, and it will be ridden by his son, Sean.

Former holders of the Miss Barbados beauty title occasionally attract the attention of those with sporting interests, so it comes as no great surprise to hear of the competitive strivings of Jennifer Beckles. She was Miss Barbados in 1984 and 1985, and it is now her ambition to represent Barbados in the sport of body-building. To this end she and another body-builder, Maureen Howard, have gone to law, seeking a court ruling that today's



Barbados championships should be used as a selection gauge for the world amateur championships which take place in Puerto Rico in October. As I write, the law looks unlikely to make up its mind before the Barbados body-building team leaves for San Juan. The spat is one of infinite complexity and has a long way to go. You spurn a Miss Barbados at your peril.

There is a big international hockey tournament going on here, with several teams from Britain taking part. This column is supporting the team with the most bizarre name: a Bajan outfit called After Dark Future Veterans.

As I prepare to move on to my next stop, New York, I am delighted to report that William "The Refrigerator" Perry is back with the Chicago Bears after treatment for "an eating disorder". Perry is huge, but like a jockey he is constantly fighting to keep his weight down. He is supposed to stay at a trim, speedy 23 stone but this summer he looked at least three stone heavier. "It's behind me now, I am ready to play football," he said. The Bears coach, Mike Ditka, added: "Last year it took two players to block Perry, and that won't change this year."

The impoverished British olympian has been a sporting archetype since the Olympic movement began. We all know how every other nation sees that its athletes are magnificently funded and feted while ours live on fish and chips, train in borrowed blouses and mortgage their houses in order to represent Britain at the Games. Now I learn that a hard-up olympian is also an American archetype: take Rod Stull, medal winner in both fencing and modern pentathlon in last year's Pan American Games. The man is struggling for cash. "Our athletes are woefully funded," said Robert Helmick, president of the United States Olympic Committee. "If they are willing to give up jobs to be a national athlete, this nation should be willing to help them." It all sounds strangely familiar.

David Holloway and Peter Bien take issue over 'The Last Temptation of Christ'. Is it outrageous under British law — or does it point the way to a deeper spirituality?

Blasphemy and bigotry

James Ferman, Director of the British Board of Film Classification, says of Martin Scorsese's film *The Last Temptation of Christ* that it is "plainly sincere and the atmosphere reverent", and there is "no possibility that a jury would find it blasphemous".

But "sincerity" and an "atmosphere of reverence" are not a sufficient defence against blasphemy. The 1978 conviction of Denis Lemon, editor of *Gay News*, for publishing a poem suggesting that Jesus was a promiscuous homosexual established that the intention, or motive, of an artist is irrelevant. It is a question of fact: is Christian religious feeling "outraged and insulted"?

The law is clear: "Every publication is said to be blasphemous which contains any contemptuous, reviling, scurrilous or ludicrous matter relating to God, Jesus Christ, or the Bible." The law allows you to attack, subvert or deny the Christian religion, but not in a way that is "indecent" or "intemperate".

So the issue over the Scorsese film is factual. Does it contain anything that is "reviling" (that

"reduces in stature" or "degrades" the person of Christ); or does it make its case in "decent and temperate language"?

The film presents us with a Jesus who is a psychotic visionary. But what he says and does is far from "temperate". He says, for example, "I want to crucify everyone of (God's) messiahs"; "I am a liar, a hypocrite"; "I hate God"; "Lucifer is inside me". There are scores of similar bizarre utterances. And Jesus is made out to be a maker of crosses in his carpenter's shop for the Romans. Not unreasonably he is accused of being "a Jew killing Jew".

We are also presented with a Jesus who thanks God for leading him to Mary Magdalene's brothel. But, however "reverent the atmosphere" (Jesus in the end rejects Mary's advances), a jury might well consider that parts of his encounter with a half-naked woman were "indecent". I certainly thought so when I saw the film.

A disclaimer at the beginning says the film "is not based upon the Gospels, but upon the fictional exploration of this eternal spiritual conflict [referring to the conflict between the flesh and the

spirit]. That will not do, because the film is based upon the Gospels. It is a fictional overlay and a rewriting of well-known Gospel events, from Jesus's encounter with John the Baptist to his Crucifixion.

Its underlying motif is temptation. But not all the temptation is sexual. There is the temptation to violence and revolution. And there is, of course, "the last temptation" — a temptation of 40 minutes duration. As Jesus is dying, he swoons and is tempted by the possibility of a future life, from that present moment to old age. But he would need to come down from the cross. This is not a temptation to "sex" as such; rather a temptation to the settled life. But that includes marriage to Mary Magdalene. And here is a problem for many Christians. Jesus is seen, on screen, making love to a woman. Perhaps, even more of a problem, is his implied adultery with Mary of Bethany and his clear (off-screen) adultery with her sister, Martha.

True, Christ in the end rejects this whole set of temptations. But their slow and realistic portrayal will inevitably give offence. For the Christian to look lustfully is

sinful, and Christ, according to scripture and Christian tradition, is the sinless son of a holy God. Yet at his most sacred moment on Calvary he is seen, however sensitively, as allowing his imagination to linger over making love to women he is not married to.

Martin Scorsese is no doubt sincere; no doubt he is making an honest "exploration" without intending to offend. He has, of course, every right to contradict orthodox Christian teaching. Nor, says the Christian, does the real Christ need protection.

As we have noted, the law does not protect Christianity from attack or subversion. But it does protect Christians from being "outraged or insulted"; and Jesus Christ may not be "reviled". In this case the "outrage" is compounded by the film no longer being a fringe art-film for the cognoscenti. It will most likely be on general release.

So what about "outrage"? It is complex. The film powerfully sweeps you along with its visual imagery and force. But unlike the printed page such is the nature of film (and this film in particular)

that sequences move fast and allow little time for reflection. Concentration has to move to new images and dialogue; and emotion gets redirected. Outrage is succeeded by interest and fascination. So what is outrageous is subtly accepted.

On any account the film is a serious distortion of the person of Christ. The Bishop of Peterborough calls it a "travesty... owing more to New York psychoanalysis than it does to the New Testament".

It may be a "reverent" distortion with, as one film critic puts it, "a man trying to become a God". But if it attributes to Jesus words or actions that are "indecent" or "intemperate", a jury could judge it blasphemous.

It may, also, show artistic power and skill. But if by words or actions it "reduces in stature" or "degrades" the Christ of Christian worship, hereto a jury could judge it blasphemous. That Scorsese's Christ is powerfully and skillfully portrayed would make it all the more so.

David Holloway, Vicar of Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, is a member of the Standing Committee of the General Synod.

6 The temptation that Jesus resists is happiness — in this version materialistic well-being

New York

Bigotry is particularly ugly when practised by Christians, who, like the founder of their religion, ought to be humble and compassionate. The campaign by Christian churchmen against *The Last Temptation of Christ* conforms precisely to the dictionary definition of bigotry: intolerant narrow-mindedness in defiance of reason or argument.

Nikos Kazantzakis's book on which the film is based was attacked in the same unreasonable way. When it appeared in Greece in 1955 the Orthodox Church sought to prosecute its author. When translations came out in various western European languages, the Roman Catholic Church placed the novel on its index of forbidden books. In the United States, fundamentalist Protestants attempted, without success, to remove the English translation from public libraries. That was in 1960.

Nevertheless, for the past three decades *The Last Temptation of Christ* has been widely admired in Europe, Greece and the United States by people eager to deepen their religious commitment. This is because Kazantzakis's version of the Gospels does not undermine Christianity but rather makes Jesus's ministry more meaningful to modern man.

Scorsese is among those who understand the purpose of the novel. Yet on July 15, Bill Bright of the Campus Crusade For Christ offered to reimburse the distributor, Universal Pictures, for its



Willem Dafoe as Christ — playing out Scorsese's testament of 'reverence' that deeply wounds many Christians

expenses if it would turn over all copies of the offending film so that he could destroy them. Universal replied eloquently, in a full-page advertisement, that freedom of thought is not for sale.

Will the film (which I have not seen) reach a wide audience despite the fundamentalists' machinations to convince cinema chains to boycott it?

What a paradox that Christian ministers are opposed to a literary version of Jesus's life that is so reverential. Focusing on certain artistic liberties that Kazantzakis has taken, they accuse him of demeaning Jesus. But the aim of his novel is to offer Jesus as a model for all of us at a time when Western civilization is declining because of its choice of happiness over spirituality.

Kazantzakis's Jesus is supremely devoted to the service of others, to reconciliation and to disinterested love. I'll put that idea in the fundamentalists' own language — language that Kazan-

tzakis shares: Jesus is supremely devoted to God's will.

What Jesus does (and what Kazantzakis hopes all of us will do, inspired by Jesus's example) is to resist the "last temptation" — that is, the final and most serious impediment to the spiritual life.

In defining this last temptation as happiness, Kazantzakis departs from the letter, but not from the spirit, of the Gospels. Happiness in his version, which comes through materialistic well-being, is not essentially different from the Gospels' account of Jesus's temptations in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13), all of which involve materialistic power.

Kazantzakis merely relates materialism to Everyman, making Jesus resist the universal temptation to place comfort, security, reputation and progeny above the pain, loneliness and martyrdom of a life devoted to the spirit.

For an instant, Jesus imagines a

different career, a happy one. He imagines that he experiences sex, begets a family and is respected as the best carpenter in Nazareth. In short, he imagines that he is happy. Then, however, he rejects this vision and reaffirms the spiritual vocation that led to his painful crucifixion.

All this, condemned as blasphemous by the fundamentalists, is Kazantzakis's way of dramatizing St Paul's conclusions about Jesus's temptations: "For surely it is not with angels that He is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore He had to be made like His brethren in every respect. For because He Himself has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning." (Hebrews, 2:16-18, 4:15).

I do not wish to claim that



Kazantzakis was an orthodox Christian. He lost his faith while still a teenager because he could not reconcile Darwin's teachings with Christianity's promise of an after life. But he never lost his admiration for Jesus or his conviction that idealistic service leading to suffering, death and resurrection remains for us today, as for the early Christians, the quintessential shape of a spiritual career.

Of course he interprets and takes liberties. But his aim, as so many readers have discovered, is to make Jesus accessible to the 20th century.

Thus I am dismayed and perplexed by the fundamentalists' anger. Their opposition to the film, so strangely contrary to their own professed aims, derives from pharisaic literalism — precisely what Jesus himself opposed. They are horrified by interpretation. Yet the major purpose of Jesus's ministry was to prod the descendants of Abraham to seek the spirit rather than the letter of traditional doctrine, thereby making that doctrine relevant to their own condition.

If Kazantzakis were alive to witness the nature of the fundamentalists' opposition, he would no doubt reply to them with Jesus's words during the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:3): "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"

© New York Times, 1988
Peter Bien, Professor of English at Dartmouth College, translated *The Last Temptation of Christ* into English.

Commentary • MICHAEL KINSLEY

A platform of pander

Washington
Political party manifestos — the Americans call them "platforms" — are not taken very seriously in this country since our constipated constitutional system makes it virtually impossible to enact a legislative agenda of any sort. Still, they are a party's one mandatory effort at self-definition, and as such they play a role in election propaganda, though not always a positive one.

Four years ago, after producing a lengthy manifesto full of detailed promises, the Democrats were accused of outlining a narrow, left-wing ideological agenda and pandering to special interests. Suitably chastened, this year they produced a short, vague, anodyne document — and were accused of hiding their actual designs.

At their recent convention in New Orleans, Republicans bragged repeatedly of having produced a long, specific, honest document, thus demonstrating their conservative philosophical clarity and self-confidence. No one challenged this characterization, possibly because the document is indeed very long. Forbiddingly so.

I, however, have now read it. And, in fact, the 1988 Republican platform is a masterpiece of pandering: a special interest cornucopia which combines hard-core pandering to the Republican hard right and overtures to moderates and liberals.

Its spirit is well captured in one of my favourite passages

from George Bush's widely praised acceptance speech, in which he discussed the great political buzz-word of 1988: "community." "Democrats," he observed, "see community as a limited cluster of interest groups." Republicans, by contrast, define community as "the Knights of Columbus, the Grange, Hadassah, the Disabled American Veterans, the Order of Ahepa (a Greek-American society), the Business and Professional Women of America" and so on. In other words, as an unlimited cluster of interest groups.

The basic unit of pandering, Republican-style, is the tax loophole. By my count the Grand Old Party platform promises 12 new special-interest tax breaks. There are five for the oil industry alone, including such baffling ideas as "Elimination of 80 per cent of intangible drilling costs as an alternative minimum tax preference item."

The largesse promised to farmers includes elimination of "the so-called 'heifer tax', as just one example." I have no idea what the heifer tax is, but now that I know we have something so hilarious I certainly oppose its elimination. That's what makes me a Democrat, I suppose.

The Republicans don't ignore traditional Democratic-style pandering through public spending either. An incomplete list: higher pensions for the elderly; a new health-care programme for "our youngest citizens"; a new "Science Advisory Council" and

"the development of new facilities and treatment programmes" for veterans. Also, several vast new outer-space programmes: you foreigners will be charmed to learn that outer space is now America's "manifest destiny" (a phrase that historically refers to the conquest of the American west).

Despite harangues against big-government Democrats, the platform does not call for the elimination of a single government programme. And, of course, "any attempts to increase taxes" are verboten. You can do the maths for yourself.

But the platform is not all mush. There is raw meat for the far right. On abortion, the Republicans declare their belief "that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children." This refers to the constitutional guarantee of protection for the "life, liberty and property" of every "person". The Republican interpretation would outlaw abortion no matter what Congress or state legislatures might wish. So much for federalism, judicial restraint, and other ostensible Republican values. And if the fetus is a "person" under the 14th amendment, there could be no exception for rape or incest.

And there's Star Wars. "We will not negotiate or compromise plans for the research, testing, or the rapid and certain deployment of SDI." The platform claims that "SDI is already working for America" because "[i]t brought the Soviets back to

the bargaining table". There's a logical flaw here. If SDI is why the Russians are willing to deal, then there can be no deal without compromising SDI. Despite outer rhetoric to the contrary, therefore, the Republicans are saying no more deals on nuclear arms control.

My favourite line in Bush's acceptance speech came in the passage where he was out to prove he is sensitive. He called for "concrete... acts of goodness", praised his wife for teaching poor children to read, then declared defiantly: "Some would say it's soft and insufficiently tough to care about these things." Oh yes? Who? If Bush can name me three people who oppose "teaching troubled children... there is such a thing as reliable love" on the grounds that this is "insufficiently tough", I'll vote for him.

Clearly it is the Republicans, more than the Democrats, who are trying to hide a narrow, minority-taste ideology. They want credit for liberal sentiments while denouncing "liberals" as invaders from an alien planet. They pander madly to group after group without the honesty to admit that active government costs money. The Democratic presidential candidate, Michael Dukakis, made a mistake in saying this election is about competence, not ideology. His party has the winning ideology. The Republicans understand this, even if the Democrats don't. The author is Editor of New Republic.

AUGUST 27 ON THIS DAY 1892

Cholera was one of the great scourges of 19th-century Europe. Dr Robert Koch (1834-1910), a founder of the science of bacteriology, identified the cholera bacillus in the 1880s. He was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1905.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE THE CHOLERA

BERLIN, AUG. 26.
The official *Reichsanzeiger* states that Dr. Koch has returned to Berlin from Hamburg, and that his report leaves no doubt of the widespread prevalence of Asiatic cholera in Hamburg and Altona. At both places detailed precautionary measures against the epidemic have been set on foot by the authorities, under instructions from Dr. Koch and the personal superintendence of Dr. Rath. Preparations have also been made for obtaining daily returns of the number of cases and the percentage of deaths, which will be published in Berlin by the Imperial Health Office.

The official organ reports, further, that a commission will meet tomorrow in the Imperial Home Office, consisting of representatives from the Federal States which are chiefly concerned, in order to discuss the measures to be taken for the Empire in general in addition to what has already been done. In all the suspicious cases which have hitherto occurred in the capital the disease has proved to be either cholera nostris or one of the similar affections

which occur everywhere in the course of the summer. Up to the present moment there has been no instance of Asiatic cholera officially recorded in Berlin. As the Government has now solemnly pledged itself not to conceal the truth, should the epidemic break out in the capital, this statement must be unreservedly accepted.

The German Press is unanimous in condemning the attempt of the Hamburg authorities to conceal the outbreak of the disease in that city. It is now admitted that the first cases occurred as far back as the 14th, and it is impossible to emphasize too strongly the responsibility which rests upon those concerned for having failed so long to recognise the primary duty of truthfulness. For more than a week an important centre of the shipping trade of the world was allowed to send forth its vessels in all directions under clean bills of health and to spread the contagion without a word of warning.

ST. PETERSBURG, AUG. 26.
According to the daily official cholera return issued this morning there were 6,322 cases of cholera and 2,977 deaths in the whole of Russia on the 23rd inst. In St. Petersburg 103 cases and 24 deaths occurred yesterday.

ROTTERDAM, AUG. 26.
The presence of Asiatic cholera on board the Hamburg steamer *Jason*, which has arrived in the roadstead at Maassvluis near this city, was notified to-day to the authorities by the quarantine medical officer. Six of the crew were reported to be suffering from the disease, and two of them have already died. The steamer has been sent back to Gravenzande, where she has been placed in quarantine. — *Reuter*.

at sequences move fast and low little time for reflection. Images and dialogue, and notion gets redirected. On any account the film is a serious distortion of the person of Christ. The Bishop of Paterson calls it a "travesty... more to New York psychoanalysis than it does to the New Testament".

It may be a "reverent" distortion with as one film critic puts it, a man trying to become a God, but if it attributes to Jesus words or actions that are "indecent" or "intemperate", a jury could judge it blasphemous.

It may, also, show artistic power and skill. But if by words or actions it "degrades" the Christ of Christian worship, hereto a jury could judge it blasphemous. That Secretary of State's portrait would make it all the more so.

David Wickham, Director of the National Film Theatre, London, is a member of the National Council of the Arts.

Karamazov was an orthodox Christian. He has his faith while still a teenager, because he could not understand his father's teachings. But after his father's death, he is disillusioned. He is a man of letters, a man of letters, a man of letters.

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TO BE A KULAK

Yesterday's announcement from Moscow that individuals and families would in future have the right to lease agricultural land from the Soviet State strikes the first real blow against collectivized agriculture. Until Mr Gorbachev sanctioned the concept four weeks ago, leasing was considered second only to private ownership in ideological unacceptability. It has now been rehabilitated, along with Nikolai Bukharin who fell foul of Stalin for advocating a similar rural programme 60 years ago.

It is not hard to see why such a radical change is needed. The neglected fields and abandoned machinery of the Soviet grain belt, the bare shelves of Soviet shops and the lamentable standards of public health are testimony enough.

If Russians are to work harder, as Mr Gorbachev is constantly exhorting them to do, they must have goods in the shops to spend their earnings on. If standards of public health are to improve, as the leadership now insists they must, people need the possibility of a balanced diet.

The urgency of both requirements was made known to the Kremlin — as if it had not known before — by provincial leaders attending June's special Communist Party conference in Moscow. Austerity measures and price rises, delegates implied, could not be introduced without bringing a serious risk of unrest.

Yet austerity was all the leadership was then offering to remedy the country's economic difficulties. The warnings from the June conference brought the improvement of food supplies to the top of the Kremlin's programme. And that meant agriculture. The timing of the announcement on leasing farmland suggests that this year's harvest has, yet again, fallen below target.

Recognition of the right of individuals to lease land is unlikely to bring change even as early as next harvest season. Although the ideological objections were rejected in an authoritative article published in *Pravda* to coincide with the announcement, dissenters will abound. In rural areas, where authority rests with the local party overlord and only secondarily with Moscow, leasing will be widely discouraged. Nor will peasants necessarily embrace the idea. Past displays of initiative have proved too costly.

Any lasting turn for the better in agriculture, will demand something even more radical, and even less realizable than theoretical permission

to lease farmland for up to 50 years. What is required is nothing less than a change of attitude towards the rural areas.

Russians have long tended to see the peasants they would like to see rather than the peasants they have. In the late 19th century idealistic young people went back to the land to sample manual labour and teach literacy to the peasants. Many followed Tolstoy in adopting the peasant smock and the simple ways of the countryside. Almost as many returned to the cities disappointed with what they had found.

None the less the ideal persisted, with a little updating, well beyond the October revolution. The farms of Soviet literature are crowded with ideal peasants — dedicated servants of the collective farm, whose only aspiration is to contribute to the welfare of the collective and whose supreme sacrifice is to lay down their lives for the cow, tractor or combine harvester.

In the Soviet canon, however, the ideal peasant must do combat with his class enemy: the selfish go-getting individualist; the *kulak* who grew rich on the back of his more honest neighbours and hoarded his harvest until the price had risen. Even when the *kulaks* had been brutally eliminated during collectivization, the suspicion persisted that within every peasant there lurked the crafty profiteer.

All the preconceptions, however, ignored the majority of rural dwellers. They were the ones who had no incentive to plough, sow or harvest on time. They were the ones whose broken combines had no spare parts, who had to petition layers of committees before anything would be done.

Experiment after experiment has failed to give the peasants any good reason to prefer ploughing to sitting in the fields drinking illegally distilled vodka. Marxism-Leninism decrees that although workers and peasants are supposed to work in partnership, the worker is in the vanguard. Heavy industry still takes precedence over production of food and consumer goods. Peasants are still prevented from moving to towns except in exceptional circumstances.

Until these practical and perceptual disadvantages are overcome, the peasants of Soviet Russia will be little better off than their pre-revolutionary forebears. Peasants have not been masters of their own land for more than 60 years now, and leasing by itself will not effect the transformation.

AIDING MASSACRE

Burundi is one of the smallest, poorest, and most overpopulated countries in Africa. It has little significance on the world stage, and attracts little international attention. It is likely to live in history for only one thing — its grisly record of ethnic massacres by the forces of the State.

The Hutu tribe makes up around 80 per cent of the population. But political power, control over the Army, and the great majority of places in education and the professions, are held by the minority Tutsi tribe. Ever since the departure of the Belgian colonialists, the Tutsi have made well-documented attempts to ensure that the Hutu can never attain the education or the wealth to challenge their position.

The Hutu have never wholly accepted their servile status. They are encouraged by the example of neighbouring Rwanda. This country has a similar ethnic mix, but, after ferocious strife in the 1960s, the two groups agreed to share power and have been doing so in relative peace ever since.

The present wave of massacres by the security forces was triggered by what the Government has called a Hutu "revolt" — an outbreak of popular anger, triggered by a local incident, in which a considerable number of Tutsis are thought to have been killed.

The response of the security forces, however, is generally thought to have reached the most appalling levels of savagery. Some independent observers think that tens of thousands of Hutus may have died. If this seems alarmist, it should be remembered that the last time the Hutu attempted a revolt, in 1972, the lowest generally accepted estimate of Hutu dead in

the consequent massacres was 100,000. The Rwandan state appears so far to have acted with as much efficiency and humanity as it can muster. Foreign aid workers report that Government and Army acted promptly to provide more than 40,000 Hutu refugees with food, fuel and shelter.

Beyond supporting this Rwandan effort, what can and should the West do about Burundi? Opportunities for putting pressure on the Government there are not great. Britain, for example, has only an honorary consul there, and gives no bilateral aid.

Burundi's main aid donors are France, Belgium, and West Germany, which give a total of around £31 million between them, and the European Community, which has agreed to an aid package totalling 108 million ecus (£69 million) under the Lomé Agreement. This is a pittance in global terms — but it is probably very important to the Burundi Government. Burundi also has military training agreements with France and the Soviet Union.

All this aid should be suspended, not merely until the massacres cease but until the Burundi ruling order shows a general willingness to reform. The West should not subsidize a Burundi state budget from which so much is spent on armoured vehicles and military helicopters for the purpose of murderously suppressing the majority of the population.

It can hardly be argued in this instance that this would drive the Burundi Government into the Soviet camp. It is no strategic prize. Nor can it be said that the population, rather than the Government, will be harmed. The bulk of the population appears already about as badly off as it is possible to be.

INCHING FORWARD

In one respect the United States could soon find itself better prepared to meet the European challenge of 1992 than Britain is. The Trade Bill, signed this week by President Reagan, requires all federal agencies to go metric.

Britain has been going metric since 1897 but has opted for a policy of gradualism — like a deep sea diver trying to avoid the bends. It still clings, for example, to its old imperial weights and measures. If you give them an inch they take a mile. No one, it seems, is going to risk that.

Conservationists are now, however, in for a testing time — and not just because of US enthusiasms. In 1980, when Brussels ruled that all countries in the European Community should go metric, Britain and Ireland applied for a stay of execution, which expires next year. By the end of 1989 the community will expect conformity, or at least a timetable to that end.

Whitehall, not to be rushed, is still hoping to win a postponement. Mrs Thatcher is reportedly less than keen about going down in history as the Prime Minister who abandoned the ounce. The cost of conversion is also a deterrent, involving everything from milk bottles to 30 mph road signs.

Britain currently lies in metrical limbo. Although schoolchildren are taught about metres and grams, motorists drive miles and drink in pints — though hopefully not at the same time, in which case the alcohol in their bloodstream may be measured in milligrams and millilitres. Packaged food now carries its weight in metric terms upon the wrapper. But most people buy their butter in half-pound packs (or so they think) and ask for certain lengths in feet and inches.

Rugby football has gone metric, the 25-yard

line becoming the 22-metre line some years ago. But cricketers still bat on a 22-yard pitch — presumably because their empire is still that of the Commonwealth. The day when a hit to the boundary counts five seems far off.

This twilight zone will never totally change. The duodecimal system for measuring time, for example, seems set to last. This is partly due to natural causes because it happens to take 12 lunar phases (or lunations) for the Earth to complete its orbit round the Sun. Whether because of this, or some more perverse reason, the Babylonians perfected the 12-hour day and a 12-hour night, making up the 24 hours one knows only too well.

An attempt was made in France some 100 years ago to switch to new decimal measurements of time. But it never caught on. Scientists, the nearest thing to Time Lords outside television, like duodecimal arithmetic because of the number of factors into which it divides. Into one hour of 60 minutes one can exactly divide one, two, three, four, five, six, 10, 12, 15 and so on, into neatly parcelled units of time. By comparison, the figure of 50 is less flexible.

In less exalted spheres, however, the metric path should be trod more boldly. As the bulk of this country's trade is now with Europe, manufacturing industry should be propelled by the need to adjust to its export markets.

An attempt by Britain to drag its feet (or even its metres) would make this country even more unpopular in Brussels. Many Europeans would see it as an attempt to erect non-standard trade barriers. Perhaps the Duchess of York might have set a better example. Princess Beatrice weighed in at 6 lbs 10 ozs. Could not the Palace have prepackaged her in grams?

Onwards and upwards in tank design

From Field Marshal Sir John Stanier
Sir, Your leading article, "Armoured divisions" (August 24), gave a fair if incomplete account of the record of tank design in this country during the last 20 years.

The Chieftain tank came into service in 1966. At that time it was far ahead of the tanks in service with our Nato allies and indeed those then in service with the Warsaw Pact. It carried a 120mm rifle-bored gun at a time when all our allies were using a British-designed, rifle-bored tank gun of 105mm calibre.

It was, as you say, the greatest disappointment that the automatic capability of the tank did not at first live up to our expectations. It was, however, nearly another 15 years before any of our allies introduced a 120mm gun into their tanks; the first to do so were the Germans in Leopard 2, when the first smooth-bored gun came into service.

We had not been standing still in those years. We had been to great lengths to introduce, jointly with the Germans, a new Nato battle tank. However, the negotiations broke down in the middle of the 1970s, leaving us once more to go it alone.

Our solution was to be the so-called MBT 80, which would have been a totally new tank. It would not, however, have been in service

until the end of the 1980s, leaving us with nothing but Chieftain to see us through for nearly 25 years.

The downfall of tanks designed for the Shah of Iran gave us a wonderful opportunity to bring into service much sooner a tank with Chieftain's armour and improved automotive ability. The gun and fire-control system, however, was still virtually unchanged from Chieftain. Named Challenger, it was, perhaps unfortunately, heralded as a "new" tank when that was far from the truth. With its arrival, MBT 80 was cancelled.

Today we still have many Chieftains to replace. I am sure that most British tank soldiers would prefer to have a fine modern British tank in its place, and it is to be hoped that Challenger 2 will live up to that expectation. But it must enable our Army to take its rightful place back with the leaders in armoured warfare.

At present we are suffering the disadvantage, which so often besets the pioneers of new development, whatever decision is taken for the future, we owe it to our soldiers to give them the very best equipment that is available today.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STANIER,
Cavalry and Guards Club,
127 Piccadilly, W1,
August 24.

Rhine Army tours

From Major-General R. S. N. Mans

Sir, Some of Christopher Coker's proposals (Commentary, August 17) for defence rethinking may well merit further consideration, but his suggestion that money could be saved by rotating brigades through Rhine Army every three months betrays a lack of appreciation of the dire consequences of such a move.

The operational effectiveness of Rhine Army would be critically impaired by this frequent roulement. It was only recently decided that armoured infantry must remain in Germany for even longer continuous tours than heretofore if they are to be fully capable of meeting the demanding requirements of mobile warfare.

Mr Coker also overlooks the very high extra costs of providing additional barracks and housing accommodation in the United Kingdom. Movement costs would mount alarmingly. Moreover, such a short period of operational duty would be further eroded by taking and handing over the variety of vital equipment for armoured warfare.

Such constant turbulence would have an undoubted effect on morale, especially upon family men, and in all probability lead to a substantial increase in premature retirement from the Services.

Yours sincerely,
ROWLEY MANS,
Ivy Bank Cottage, Vinegar Hill,
Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire,
August 19.

Postal strike fear

From Mr David Landau

Sir, You report today (August 24) that a postal strike may be about to fall on us yet again. I manage a company whose services to the public depend to a great extent on an efficient postal service, and which is seriously affected when industrial action, whether official or unofficial — as has happened time and again during the last few months — stops the delivery and collection of mail.

I am ignorant of the matter of contention between the Post Office management and its employees, but know that any other company would quickly cease

trading if the service it charged its customers for were as mediocre as that provided us by the Post Office.

There may well be faults on both sides, but having a better relationship with the workforce must surely become a priority of the Post Office management: we customers cannot afford to pay for the services of a company where any disagreements may result into industrial action, and into another, unacceptable loss to our own companies.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LANDAU,
(Joint Managing Director),
Loat Ltd.,
24-32 Kilburn High Road, NW6,
August 24.

'EastEnders' role

From Mr Michael Cashman

Sir, Kate Finch in her article "Soaps with a clear conscience" (August 24) makes a number of false assumptions regarding my role of Colin in *EastEnders*. I would like to point out that in consultation with the BBC, any decision to leave *EastEnders* will be mine.

Therefore the character is not a "victim of a changing public perception of the desirability of the homosexual lifestyle".

In portraying a character an actor's concern must be to maintain his or her integrity; public perception must never affect that. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CASHMAN,
Suite 42,
Golden Square, W1,
August 25.

All steamed up

From Mr Paul Ferris

Sir, Sheridan Morley (Diary, August 24) has missed the point about radio and its columnists. Unfashionable arts have an appeal of their own. British radio, or at least the reviewable part of it, has too much excellence (and well-loved awfulness) to be critically ignorable.

His argument is flawed a bit, too, by the assertion that Joyce Grenfell's old paper, *The Observer*, no longer takes radio as seriously as it did in her day, having demoted it to a fortnightly column. This is news to me. I write about it on a Thursday and they put it in every Sunday. Yours faithfully,
PAUL FERRIS,
26 Roehampton Court, SW13,
August 25.

Rough on some

From Mr Philip Lee

Sir, An illustrated advertisement in the waiting room of my local optician eulogised the practice of wearing leisure spectacles and showed photographs of two young men, neither of whom had shaved — a fact I pointed out to the young lady receptionist.

She peered at the photograph and at my white hair. "Ah, Sir. Do you not watch *Miami Vice* or the *Rambo* films? The heroes always appear unshaven — it is the fashion."

Being of a generation who never appeared before breakfast unshaven, I thought it odd.

What of the ladies? How do they feel at being nuzzled by these leisure men?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP LEE,
40 Dan-y-Bryn Avenue,
Radyr,
Cardiff, South Glamorgan,
August 18.

Directional error

From Commander R. Perceval Maxwell, RN (ret)

Sir, I was very interested in your New York Correspondent's report (August 24) about Robert Peary, but was surprised to learn that the gallant explorer had somehow managed to get himself to the west of the North Pole. As far as I know, all roads lead south from the North Pole. Yours faithfully,
R. PERCEVAL MAXWELL,
Phillips Cottage, Holt,
Trowbridge, Wiltshire,
August 24.

Measure for measure

From Dr Seton Bennett

Sir, Dr Innes (August 19) is concerned that three barleycorns seem no longer to equal one inch.

Edward I was probably the first English king to specify measures of length and his Act of 1305 ordained that "three grains of barley, dry and round, make an inch, 12 inches make a foot..."

Perhaps Dr Innes's barleycorns were not dry and round!

In his book *The Weights and Measures of England*, R. D. Connor reports that 45 randomly-chosen English barleycorns from the 1936 crop placed end to end equalled 1.5m within one half per cent, so that any increase in the size of barleycorns appears to be relatively recent.

Yours faithfully,
S. J. BENNETT (Deputy Director, National Weights and Measures Laboratory),
Department of Trade and Industry,
Stanton Avenue,
Teddington, Middlesex,
August 19.

From Mr Peter J. Read

Sir, There is one place where the barleycorn may be said to have retained a foothold as a unit of measurement (letters, August 19, 24). The familiar British shoe sizes, which have resolutely resisted metrification, are based on three sizes to the inch. Each full size is one barleycorn (or one third of an inch) longer than its predecessor. Yours faithfully,
PETER J. READ,
41 Seymour Road,
Southfields, SW18,
August 24.

Contractors who are considerate

From Mr Michael Cassidy

Sir, Rodney Fitch's comments on building sites in London (August 18) has clearly struck a chord with many of your readers. Mr Fitch is wrong, however, in assuming that all local authorities are unconcerned about the effect these building works are having on everyone working, living in, and visiting London. The Corporation of London is concerned and has done something about it in the City.

Last September the Corporation of London launched the Considerate Contractor Scheme to encourage building contractors to adopt a voluntary code of good practice for their sites. Thanks to the success of the scheme, the City has seen a marked improvement in the appearance and safety of building sites in the last year.

Co-operation, not confrontation with contractors, has resulted in real improvements that have been noticed and appreciated by everyone in the City.

If Mr Fitch is finding it impossible to work in the West End, then perhaps Fitch & Company should consider moving to a place where contractors are more considerate.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CASSIDY,
(Chairman, Planning and Communication Committee),
Corporation of London,
PO Box 270,
Guildhall, EC2,
August 24.

From Lord Greenhill of Harrow
Sir, I applaud the letter of Sir John Curtiss (August 22) on disruption by developers. The "noise, dust and general disturbance" has certainly reached an unreasonable level in the Kensington area.

The noise is a particularly objectionable pollution because it could be significantly reduced quite quickly. Much of it is caused by insufficiently silenced mechanical diggers, by overloaded eight-wheeled trucks driven in low gear at full throttle, pile-driving for long hours, including weekends, and many other controllable activities.

I would be surprised if existing regulations do not govern these disturbances and, if so, penalties should be made severe. The speed

of modern building must be welcomed, but not at such a high cost. Protests have little effect and even the Crown Estate Commissioners cynically dismiss them. Yours,

GREENHILL OF HARROW,
House of Lords,
August 22.

From Mr Robert Davis
Sir, The building boom in London, a sure sign of a healthy and expanding British economy, inevitably leads to some disruption, dirt and noise — but Sir John Curtiss is wrong when he claims that inadequate powers exist to control development.

Any building development where work overflows on to the public highway requires a licence and in central London developers have to meet strict control guidelines before Westminster City Council will grant such a licence.

Where building work results in the closure of a pavement, then Westminster will insist that wherever possible a pedestrian walkway, separated by barriers from vehicular traffic, is provided.

A team of enforcement officers patrol Westminster — there are 10 operating in the St James's area — to ensure building regulations are adhered to. In addition, the city council operates a zone improvement patrol (known as the Zip team) that can move into any area of the city to tackle specific problems, such as illegal obstruction of the highway.

The city council has brought many successful prosecutions against developers — big and small — that have breached these planning regulations.

Even with all these safeguards and controls, disruption will inevitably occur when major building works are under way. The measures and controls undertaken by Westminster City Council seek to ensure that this is kept to a bearable minimum.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. DAVIS (Chairman, Traffic and Works Sub-Committee),
Westminster City Council,
PO Box 240,
Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street, SW1,
August 22.

Better Underground

From the Managing Director of London Underground Ltd

Sir, I must assure Mrs E. Angus (August 24) that an improved standard of customer service is in addition to London Underground's efforts to provide a safe, reliable service and ease congestion — not as a substitute. More trains are being introduced and we are vigorously tackling overcrowding — only last week we were given final authority for a £40 million package of works at Angel station.

The new automatic ticketing service has already cut down queues in booking halls and the gates provide more exit and entry points than previously, again reducing overcrowding. When fully implemented it will release staff to provide the high quality of service our customers deserve.

All tickets sold from stations converted to the new ticket system can be used in the automatic gates. Currently, 172 Underground stations issue tickets compatible with the 21 stations with gates; completion of the programme is due at the beginning of next year. Also British Rail tickets will soon be compatible. Old-style season tickets

can be exchanged at the issuing station booking office when they have been converted to the new ticket arrangements.

We shall be encouraging customers to exchange old-style tickets in an autumn publicity campaign.

Yours sincerely,
DENIS TUNNICLIFFE,
Managing Director,
London Underground Ltd,
55 Broadway, SW1,
August 24.

Question of degree

From Miss Nicola Tompkins

Sir, The reference made by David Tyler (report, August 19) to the employment success of university social science graduates following a report by the CNA (Council for National Academic Awards) surely applies to the majority of all university graduates — clearly highlighting the prejudices surrounding education today.

In our changing society prospective job applicants should be considered not on how well they fared with A-level papers set on a series of sunny afternoons in June, but on personal attributes which, surprisingly enough, many less privileged graduates have.

It is time for employers to examine the reasons behind the choice of a degree course, which is,

after all, what three years in higher education boils down to. A degree is a degree, whether studied for at a university, a polytechnic or, dare I mention, a college of higher education and is representative of an ability to reach, through continuous commitment, a level of understanding which surpasses average intelligence.

The hierarchy of educational establishments that exists in Britain today is outdated, unfair, and, in a country boasting "equal opportunities", as demoralising as judging an individual on the colour of his skin and registration number of their car.

Yours faithfully,
NICOLA TOMPKINS,
(Derbyshire College of Higher Education),
Amboise, Wayside Road,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Shop hours reform

From the Vice-Chairman of the National Consumer Council

Sir, The proportion of the public in favour of amending the ridiculous antiquated shop hours legislation in England and Wales is substantially higher than the 52 per cent quoted in Steven Dunne's article "Sunday drive" (August 17) by one of the people to whom he talked.

In a survey of 1,811 people in England and Wales carried out on National Consumer Council's behalf by MORI between December 4 and 8, 1987, 62 per cent of people were in favour of reforming the law — the same as in 1981.

The most popular reform was to abolish altogether the present restrictions on when shops may open and on what they may sell. Next favourite was to allow Sunday trading but within limited hours, with majorities in favour of opening between 10 and 4 pm.

When people were asked which shops they would like to see prevented from opening, there was no majority support for the closure of any specific type of shop. Only 22 per cent had as their favourite or second favourite fully

enforcing the current law that prevents most types of goods being sold on Sunday.

Should a minority of people — no matter how sincerely held their views — be allowed to stand in the way of a reform that the majority clearly want to see?

Yours faithfully,
JANET GRAHAM,
Vice-Chairman,
National Consumer Council,
20 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.

Period flavour

From Mr Michael Davison

Sir, My wife and I are soon to fly to the Seychelles to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary. Whilst there we shall visit a friend who attended our wedding in Kenya and soon afterwards bought an island in the Seychelles where he has lived ever since.

Can any of your readers please advise us what gifts it would be most appropriate to pack in our flight bags to convey the essence of England in 1988 to this voluntary exile of 1958? Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DAVISON,
5 St Albans Road,
Kington-upon-Thames, Surrey.



Bernstein: looks into the eyes of his pupils and fixes an image into their heads that has never been there before. He physically touches, stares and overpowers without being scary. It is not so much teaching, as creating

Here we go ‘Wow!’ with Lenny

To avoid all this, and to see at work the real Bernstein, come early, his advisors had advised. And thus in the days before the

The most dramatic session comes in Saranak, a great white

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Bernstein's line -- "As I teach, I learn: helping others grow increases me" -- is nicely epigrammatic, but surely implausible? Tackling Brahms for the zillionth time, what was still to be found? "Ah hour ago I took the Boston SO to Tchaikovsky Five. They were ready to go 'ho-hum, we can play this backwards'. Then, on stage I decided the part marked for two clarinets would be changed. Most conductors change it to one. It is easier than trying to

Bernstein chose this week to do a savage television piece on interviewers: how they all ask the same damn-fool questions. "Tell me, Mr Bernstein," he mimicked, "what's your favourite record... or food... film star... politician? And how do you want to be remembered... as

Immortal. This is a word being worn paper-thin by use as the Bernstein birthday gala rah-rah on through today and tomorrow. But it was before the cameras and the caterers moved in, before the famous cleared their throats and rehearsed their cues, that he earned it.

Personal Pensions from Sun Alliance Life

Marin Alsop: "I don't remember a word he said. But I think he changed my life. We came back and it was just a different piece of music. He looks into your eyes, fixes you and somehow puts an image in your mind that has never been there before." I advance a

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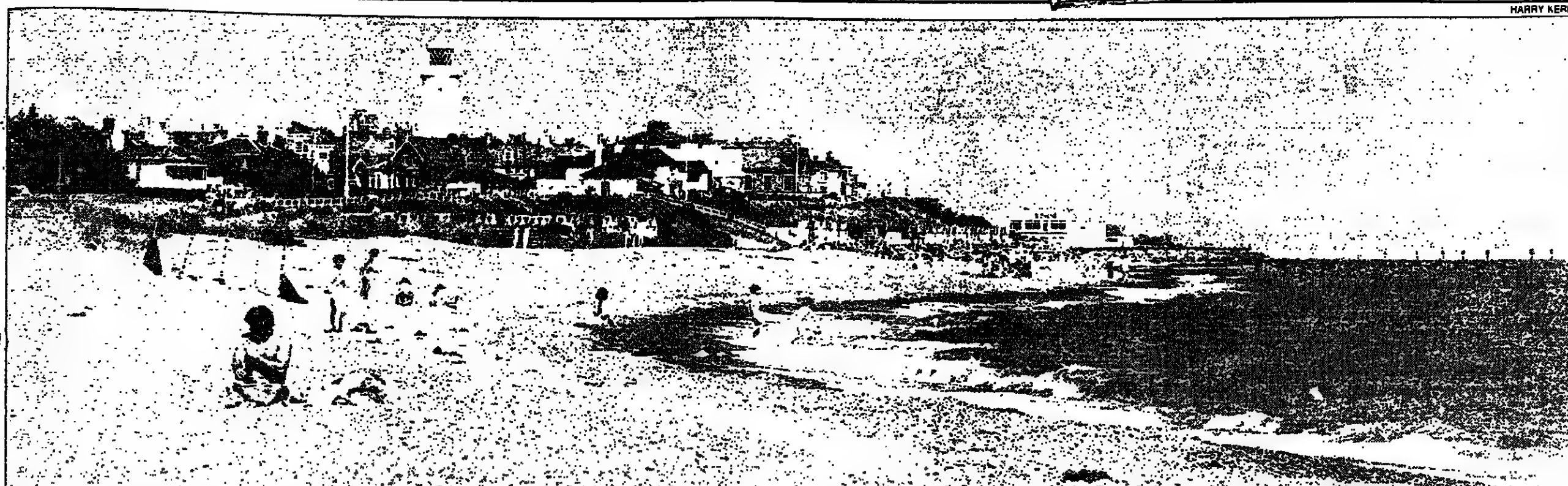
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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 2

هكذا من العجول



Stranded in time on the edge of the stormy North Sea: Southwold might catch the cold winds as they come howling over the breakers from Russia, but a day on a Suffolk beach can still epitomize all the traditional pleasures of the English seaside

Where the tide has never turned

Michael Watkins journeys to the seaside and discovers a changeless town doing its utmost to be forever England

If you believe in a constitutional monarchy and Aaah, Bistol, you will feel at home in Southwold. If you list among your heroes Biggles, Buchanan, and Norman St John Stevas, you will feel very much at home. Not that this preference is of the slightest consequence, for it is less a question of whether you like Southwold, as whether Southwold likes you. Suffolks are bloody-minded, unconcerned with semantics and clever modern men. They are a no-nonsense breed, with one foot in the sea, the other behind the plough. In winter they talk with their mouths shut, to keep the east wind out.

Despite this, Southwold has the inalienable knack of attracting the right sort and repelling the wrong. I do not know how this happens. Perhaps it is an island virtue, once you cross Might's Bridge, over Buss Creek, you are virtually on an island. Perhaps it is because Southwold is manacled to the past, preserved in an aspic of the 1920s and '30s; not much has changed since then. If you can buy a hamburger in the town I'd rather not know; it would make an anaemic alternative to Mr Marshall's butter-buns, the recipe for which was conceived in a dream.

Pop your head round the door of Eversley School where, apart from a sign "Do Not Feed the Animals", nothing has changed for yonks. It reeks of steaming cabbage and steaming life, of ink and chalk and iodine. "Ah, Father, wishart in Heaven," the children recite daily, while "Shepherds

Wash their Socks" at Christmas. Alas, "Fourteen pounds make a stone" is part of a dead language now we've graduated to incomprehensible metrics. These children will grow up and go to Woolloomooloo, become Prime Minister, prisoners of conscience or marry the girl who sat at the next desk, ending their days leafing through the *East Anglian Daily Times* in the Southwold Sailors' Reading Room.

There's nowhere quite like this Reading Room and I relish it. Mainly because of the "Suffolk Worthies". There's a sepia-tinted photograph of them, snapped on a day in 1904 when the light was not of the best. Mostly they are bearded, all have the calloused hands of fishermen, some chew on clay pipes; there is a spotted dick of a dog with them and they might have had names like Sam May, Frank Upcraft, John Craigie. Hurr is a family to be reckoned with: so Sloper, Jumbo or Winkle Hurr could have been among them. It wasn't that long ago that Mrs Hurr sold wine-gums, postcards, *Beano* and baccy from a shop opposite the lighthouse; while upstairs Mr Hurr ran a barber's. Short back and sides was the limit of his repertoire, known locally as a Hurr-cut.

The Reading Room squats on cliffs above a pewter-coloured sea. Somewhere out there is Mur-

mans, exporter of chill winds. But nearer, much nearer, is the beach, known once as Sole Bay where, in 1672, the English, French and Dutch fleets engaged in a battle so evenly contested that no one claimed victory. A number of Southwold men, conscripted by press gang, never did make it back. Before the Victorian bathing-machines and rosy red-brick villas, Southwold lived off the sea. Died for it too, for it is a wild, restless sea - shallower than most, saltier and more dangerous. Southwold men still go down to the sea in ships; and occupy their business in great waters. Fishing is picking up, you can make a quid or two.

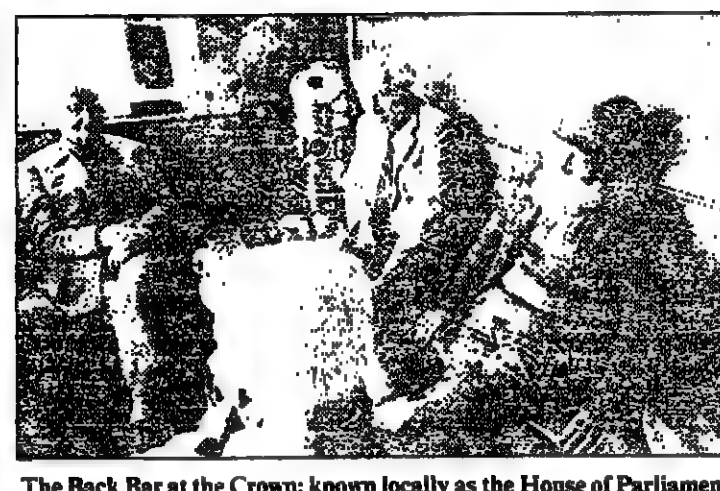
Which them put out, if you've a mind to; and hours later watch them come in from the cold, engines hammering as they nose through Walberswick Gate towards moorings down by the Harbour Inn, an Adams pub showing the 1953 flood level mark which comes above my head. The path is littered with tar-blackened butts, a brick-a-brac of spars, nets and marker buoys.

There is loneliness in the salt marshes; the common term flies up river on fishing trips: at high tide water courses over the flats where avocets feed. You may hear the crink and gabble of geese passing

overhead. The colours are of tarnished gold, muted green and misty blues; no magnificence or vermillion scream into these pale solitudes.

A stranger might speculate about so small a town as Southwold needing such a multiplicity of pubs. There is the Swan, with its elegant facade, its wrought-iron balconies and cast-iron prejudices favouring decorous behaviour. An Adams house, is the Swan; as indeed is the Sole Bay Inn, the Lord Nelson, the Victoria - indeed, all 10 pubs are Adams, bar one. The Cellar and Kitchen Store is Adams; there is an Adams estate agent. Two Adams drays are drawn by Adams Percherons. If there was a Sheriff of Southwold... and I stay at the Crown, owned by Adams but run by big, shy girls with thick hair and "The Crown" stencilled across bow fronts. Lovely girls, the sort I'd like to see my nephew marry.

"You take a highly romantic view of Southwold," Simon Loftus said. "Romantic and accurate - but not for much longer. Composed of retired judges and colonial administrators up till now, it's all changing. As of now, this very minute. One old boy has just sold his fisherman's cottage for £96,000. Locals could be forced out, the texture of the place ruined and we'll be left with a



The Back Bar at the Crown; known locally as the House of Parliament

stage-set, a watering place for rootless rich. I accept a degree of guilt. When we modernised the Crown I was afraid we'd scare away the regulars in the Back Bar - we call it the 'House of Parliament', but they're back again. Simon, if you hadn't guessed, is a director of Adams. Southwold's blackest hour was when George Bumstead retired. He owned Bumstead's, a "Sir" and "Madam" family grocer in Stradbroke Road. There was a solid mahogany counter, hand-operated bacon-slicer, farmhouse chairs for customers to take the weight off their feet. Everyone shopped at Bumstead's, visitors included - they'd troop in wearing shorts, sandals-with-socks and other passion-killers, on their way to the promenade. They'd brew up in beach huts called "Simla" and

"Tiddies", releasing unforgettable, forgotten smells of camphor and mints. They'd slip into bathing suits (as I seem to be slipping into the tenses) to scrunch across the shingle, which echoed like a giant grinding his molars. But it is not the past tense, Southwold is too obstinate. Smug? No, I didn't say that. Just protective, wary. A town which has smiled on no technological advance since the shoehorn is hardly likely to lose its head overnight. Perhaps you would understand this if you walked down the High Street at 10pm, a street narrowed by shadows but not by people. A few will have gone to the Aldeburgh Cinema, 30 minutes' drive away, to see *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*; but most are getting ready for bed, each household cloaked in separate absorp-

tion. The North Sea gurgles; passing ships sound low abdominal sirens. The lights go out in this corner of "Silly" Suffolk, deriving as it does from the Saxon selig, meaning "holy". "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace..." Hush, hush, whisper who dares. Mr George Bumstead is saying his prayers.

TRAVEL NOTES

The Crown, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6DP (0502-722275) has simple accommodation at £36 per night for a double room, £24 single, including light breakfast, early morning tea, newspaper and VAT. The Aldeburgh Cinema really has been showing *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* this week. (Final performances today).

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OUTINGS

Rustic Revels: Village life as it might have been between 1650 and 1680. Throckmorton, Pershore, Worcestershire. Today 2pm to 8pm. Programme 5p.

Portsmouth Navy Days: Free admission to HMS Victory, Royal Navy Museum and the Mary Rose - plus entrance to naval ships. HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, Hampshire. (0705 861533). Today, tomorrow, Monday, 10am to 5.30pm. Adult £3, child £1.

Bank Holiday at the London Transport Museum: The Tramway and Light Railway Society run their model tramway today, tomorrow, Monday. Today and Mon only, the Feltham Tram is open to visitors to handle. Also the current exhibition Art Deco

Underground. London Transport Museum, Covent Garden, London WC2. (01-379 6344). Daily 10am to 6pm. Adult £2.40, child £1.10, under fives free.

Children's Craft Show: 180 exhibitors showing and selling traditional, modern and unusual crafts. Demonstrations. Dear Park, picnic area, home-made refreshments and children's corner. Stonor Park, Henley-on-Thames. Today, tomorrow, Mon. 10am to 6pm. Adult £2.50, child 7-16 50p.

The Festival of Georgian Music: A weekend of music by great masters and local composers. St Mary's Church, Stoke-by-Nayland, near Colchester, Essex. Three concerts tonight, tomorrow, Mon.

7.30pm. (0787 210507). Adult £4, students £2.50. Westminster and London Horse Show: Three-day show with more than 50 events. Hyde Park, London. Today, tomorrow, Mon. 9.30am onwards. Free.

Bishop's Castle Traction Engine Rally: Outstanding examples of British steam engineering, including showmen's engines, historic buses, lorries, fire engines, veteran and vintage cars and motor cycles. Also shire horses, rural craft display, Morris dancing, train standing, refreshments. Bishop's Castle, near Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Tomorrow, Mon. 11am onwards. Adult £3, child £1.50.

21st National Tramway Museum Extravaganza: 40 restored trams plus rallies of classic vehicles. National Tramway Museum, Crich, near Matlock, Derbyshire. (077385 2565). Tomorrow, Mon. 10am to 10pm. Adult £3, child £1.20.

Exeter Air '88: Major air show of vintage and modern aircraft. Exeter Airport, Clyst, Honiton, Exeter, Devon. (0392 30341). Today, tomorrow, Mon. 9.30 am to 6.30pm. Admission: Sat adult £3, Sun and Mon £4, child £1 throughout.

Lion's Whitbread Country Fair: Crafts, vintage vehicles, art exhibitions and the world pitchfork championship. Whitbread Hop Farm, Belling, Paddock Wood, Kent. Tomorrow, Mon. 11am to 5pm. Adult £2, child £1.

Judy Froshaug

GARDENING

The bequest of Buddle

Thoughtful contemplation of the buddleia is as peaceful and restorative an occupation as can be recommended for a Bank Holiday. Like the butterfly, I love the common *Buddleia davidii*. Two slender, gnarled trees on my front path provide their own soft purple beauty at this time of year, each incremented with peacock, small tortoiseshell and red admiral butterflies.

My attention has been particularly directed towards buddleias this year, on account of an uncommon number of seedlings which have turned up among my parsley and curly lettuce.

While the common buddleia was reproducing itself

space, I was struggling to propagate from the variegated form with inky-purple flowers. Named cultivars of buddleia will not grow true from seed and can only be reproduced from cuttings - the soft, bendy shoots now, or longer hardwood cuttings later.

Recently - and with relief - I decided to revert to spelling buddleia in the familiar way, rather than *Buddleia* which is reputedly the way Linnaeus spelled it, in honour of the otherwise unremembered Essex clergyman Adam Buddle. Eighteenth-century writers conventionally used "y" in places where we now put "i" and I see no great virtue in conserving this practice (especially since Linnaeus himself appears to have latinized the name incorrectly).

The habit of growth of old buddleias is inelegant, displaying lengths of rugged brown branch, but the late season blooms of mature trees can be supplemented, for example with scented white clematis, *Clematis montana odorata* and *Wilsonii* bloom successively from late May to July and are over by the time the flowering shoots of the buddleia are pushing forth.

The smaller of my two trees, which is just over 6ft, I prune in the approved manner in late winter with a bit of subsidiary pruning after the first flowers are beginning to fade, which brings on more flowers. The other, older tree, too high to reach easily, goes its own way.

There are, of course, more refined buddleias, many of them associated with celebrated gardeners. I think of Rosemary Verey and *Buddleia fallowiana* which is harder in the white form (Alba). Christopher Lloyd writes warmly about the recondite *Buddleia auriculata*, whose flowers are also fragrant and welcome in

CLARE ROBERTS

WEEKEND TIPS

- Sow Cyclamen persica seed, soaking it first.
- Prune or clip holly, hornbeam, Leyland cypress, laurel and yew.
- Take conifer cuttings.
- Harvest onions without delay, gently fork up the bulbs and leave them to dry.
- Propagate blackberry varieties, by burying the tip of a new shoot in the ground about 4 1/2 in/7 cm.

October. Anne Scott-James is lyrical about *Buddleia alternifolia*, a plant beloved of the adventurer Farrer who described "a gracious, small-leaved, weeping willow when it is not in flower and a sheer waterfall of purple when it is".

The species which has made most impression on me, however is *Buddleia crispa*, a bush with leaves which are almost felted. It is just beginning now to open its deliciously scented bundles of lavender coloured flowers. Alas for me on my damp Hertfordshire hillside, this buddleia likes hot, dry conditions.

Francesca Greenoak

Agriframes

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EATING OUT

A long way from homely

Jonathan Meades discovers that Polish as well as Indian restaurants are falling for a new wave of sophistication

What has happened to Indian, Chinese, Thai, Malaysian and most other kitchens of the sort formerly deemed as "ethnic" was, I suppose, bound to happen to the lesser kitchens of Europe. In other words: out of the ghetto-like café into the more or less swish restaurant, increased refinement, the acknowledgment of "regional" dishes, less thickly laid-on national colour, more thickly laid-on price. The latest victim of this wave of gentrification is Polish cooking. The bare half dozen London Polish restaurants are folkies, clubs or club-like, unpretentious, homely in their cooking. Elania, in a part of Fulham where every other premises seems to house a restaurant, has set out to overturn all that.

It eschews unpretentiousness by calling itself, in addition to a restaurant, a champagne and vodka bar and an art gallery. The art bit comprises straggly Pearlstein-like nudes painted on hunks of driftwood. These are hung on the emphatically non-folkie grey walls which may not shout Poland but pretty certainly shout Fulham '88. I think the black lacquered chairs, if they could speak too, would be saying the same. Of course it is easy enough to amend the trappings, to serve champagne (in anachronistic tulip glasses rather than flutes) instead of Tatra beer, to do out the place so it looks like many others. It is less easy to do much to Polish cooking. Surely — the thinking goes — to refine it would be to strip it of its very essence,

The bread is better than the rice, the puds are filling and the service is solicitous

ever changing. The chef here is Polish and is, more importantly, a talented craftsman. The only dish even vaguely akin to the sort that one might expect in other London Polish places, a skinned tomato stuffed with Bismark herring, served only to emphasize the crudeness of such "cooking". Otherwise there was a fine pike sausage which might have been French, a tartar of salmon (again French-ish), smoked lamb in cold slices which was too close to commercial ham to be interesting, peirgi stuffed with cheese and mint — which might of course be high quality modern Italian ravioli save for their sprinkling of croutons and bacon.



Main courses comprised duck breast and an eye-assaulting green pancake which looked like a Venusian after a fatal accident with a steam roller; it was stuffed with mild mushrooms which had been mugged with dill. The one sweet was a simple stuff of segments of apple and was as dreary as it was a waste of kitchen labour. Despite the sometimes gauche service, and the hideous thump of disco music from the champagne and vodka bar, this is a commendable and gastronomically rather exciting place. With a couple of vodkas two will pay about £66.

The chef Gopal Pital has been associated with several of the newish wave of Indian restaurants in London and has to a large extent determined the repertoire that is now a norm in smart sub-continental restaurants. His solo venture, Gopal's, has, in common with Lal Qila and The Red Fort, cooking of a most subtle and fastidiously prepared sort. There are, too, the crassly named, indiscriminately concocted cocktails. The premises are small, smart, bereft of Indian caterer's decorative clutter. What is remarkable about Gopal's is the prices, which are about two-thirds those of comparable establishments. The menu is certainly less adventurous than that of The Red Fort or Jamdani but that is hardly a black mark when the most ordinary dishes take on a new aspect; the single most beguiling feature of Pital's cooking is the range of flavours it reveals. Starters include patties — which are

(non-greasy) cakes of fried mashed potato stuffed with, mainly, coriander and pulses; rather overcooked and over-sour king prawns; very finely ground "burgers" of lamb that were unaccompanied by a sauce which might have relieved their dryness. After that the house thali is an all-at-once tasting menu at the staggeringly low cost of £7.95. Maybe if this, and other Indian places, were to adopt service à la russe (i.e., service in courses) one might not leave feeling so vanquished. This thali was easily enough for two and its stars were chicken cooked with cream

A green pancake which looked like a Venusian after a fatal accident with a steam roller

and fenugreek, succulent tandoori-cooked meats and a sweetie yogurt and fruit dip. There is also a fine dish of pomfrit in the "Mangalore style". The bread is better than the rice, the puds are filling, the service is solicitous. A rather outstanding meal with two Kingfisher beers, three lassis and some mineral water cost £38 including service. Even at that price Gopal's is a bargain and doubtless you could eat for quite a bit less.

Elania: 773 Fulham Road, London SW6 (01-736 7311) 6.30-11 Mon to Sat, 11.30-2.30 Sun.
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DRINK

The curably provençal

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or until golden-brown. Plums, pears, peaches, nectarines or apples can be cooked in exactly the same way.

Other provincial producers are all-too-aware of the factors

Jane MacQuitty



100

THE ARTS

JR comes to the castle

Television may struggle to give us the extraordinary but it often strains even more when it tries to give us the ordinary. Jonathan Ross has certainly struggled in his time to give us many things, including the extraordinary and a taste for tasteless lager. Last night in *The Incredibly Strange Film Show* (Channel 4) he wore a cowboy get-up. The accent, though, mostly remained pure JR (London grease, that is, rather than Texan oil). That uniquely commonplace syllable grinder of a voice gives even those with acute hearing the impression of being partially deaf, thus making us concentrate more on his fresh clean looks.

Fancy dress apart, Ross did not have to struggle to give us the extraordinary because this week's subject was an incredibly strange film-maker, Ted V. Mikels, who until he discovered late in life a taste for monogamy lived in a Californian castle with a constantly topped up retinue of "castle ladies".

The cult director of *The Corpse Grinders* did not mince his words. Indeed, he was so verbally adept

TELEVISION

he could even throw them and spent some time talking to a ventriloquist's dummy - when not playing the accordion or reclining with his bear tooth on a bed surrounded by swords and shields. In fact the very laid-back Mr Mikels seemed to find it no effort whatever to be pure Californian wacko, even though his films, such as *Astrucumbles*, *Ten Violent Women*, *The Doll Squad* and the seminal *The Blood Orgy of the She-Devils*, seemed to be struggling more for their special effects.

Family Affairs (ITV), presented by the former Radio 1 disc jockey Mike Smith, whose face looks untouched by worry let alone a razor, seeks to air ordinary problems. Last night it was a couple married for 40 years who were fed up to their back teeth (or perhaps rear dentures) with each other. Of course, it is not at all ordinary to air such problems on television in front of a live audience, having enacted scenes of tension for the cameras, but Ted and Jean in this absurd contrivance bravely blithered on as though they had only the cat as witness.

Andrew Hislop

A change of direction

The trouble with trying your hand at directing, Geraldine McEwan tells Sheridan Morley, is that there's no one for you to complain about

Geraldine McEwan, on her own admission, is not one to make snap decisions about which direction her career should take. But that appears to be changing. "Usually I am extremely cautious and take months to decide about doing anything in the theatre," she says, "but twice this year I've agreed to offers as they were made over the phone, because they both seemed so absolutely right."

The first of those offers was to make her debut, at 56, as a director with Kenneth Branagh's Renaissance Theatre Company: her *As You Like It* joins the repertoire next Wednesday at the Phoenix, where there is already an advance of £250,000 for the three-month, three-play season. The second was to replace Maggie Smith in *Letting Go* by Peter Shaffer at the Globe, when Miss Smith goes to open it in America towards the end of the year.

"This will be the second time that I've followed Maggie into a Shaffer comedy. But 25 years ago we did it the other way around: Maggie played *Private Ear & Public Eye* in the West End and I was the one who took it to Broadway."

"It'll be good to get back to acting after almost nine months of directing; that is such a lonely business, although I've loved it."

"Ken Branagh was a pupil of my husband, Hugh Cruttwell, at Rada, and when he asked me to join Derek Jacobi and Judi Dench as one of the Renaissance directors I saw what a chance it would be to get to know *As You Like It*. I've always regretted never being asked to play Rosalind."

"The first few auditions were terrifying, because knowing how awful they are for actresses I didn't



Geraldine McEwan: "The first auditions were terrifying. I didn't dare ask anyone if they'd do a scene"

dare ask any of the people who came to see me if they'd do a scene, so we just sort of chatted aimlessly."

"It was also a matter of negotiating with Judi and Derek about whom they wanted for the other two plays, *Much Ado* and *Hamlet*."

"The company could only afford 11 actors and four actresses, so they have to be crosscast in all three productions."

"We didn't do much conferring but I do think that a sort of Renaissance house style is emerging, mainly through Kenneth himself."

"In all my years as an actress, the happiest time I have ever had was at the National with Olivier from 1965 to 1972; there was something about having Larry himself as head of the company on stage with us every night in different plays that gave a kind of buoyancy and enthusiasm to the other actors."

"You don't really get this if the director disappears after the first night back to his office. Renaissance has also begun to achieve the same feeling."

"You have to remember that we've been on tour for three months with these plays, everywhere from the Birmingham Rep studio seating 150 to the Belfast Opera House seating 10 times that, and then the open-air castle at Elsinore, so the productions are still changing from week to week."

"I realized from my own experience of directors that I would have to find my own vision of the play and then stay with it very firmly. I

wanted an Edwardian *As You Like It*; it's such a delicate and romantic comedy that the period works very well, with Rosalind and Celia emerging as New Women and Touchstone as a music-hall comedian. I dreaded coming to a moment in rehearsal when the Edwardian setting created more problems than it solved, but mercifully we never got to that."

He soon discovered that being a director can be a lonely business. "The first night in Birmingham was like watching your own child being born. But the trouble with being a director is there's nobody to gang up with or complain about except yourself, though now I've started I do very much want to go on with it."

"I was more totally consumed by *As You Like It* for about six months than I have been by anything else in my life; while we were rehearsing I lived by myself in a flat in Birmingham, and I used to get up at five every morning to start planning that day's work."

"It was like guiding some great ocean liner through ice, and the energy level you need to keep the play afloat all day is immense; but it was also the most exciting time of my life."

"Of course it helps to have been an actress yourself, because one can do the short-cuts having been there, and the actors seem to have more faith in one of their own kind."

"All you then need is an absolutely faith in the text, and the courage of the play itself. I came quite late to Shakespeare, because when I started out in the West End at 18 it was in light comedies from Windsor, where my father was a local printer, and I always felt somehow deprived of a university or drama school. In those days Claire Bloom and Dorothy Tutin got all the good classical work."

"But then Peter Hall took me to Stratford for his very first production there, in 1956, to play the Princess of France in *Love's Labour's Lost* and after that the classics did seem to come my way. I've never been very consciously ambitious; I've never made films, and in the theatre I'm really quite happy to stay out of work until something right comes along."

"At last I've got past worrying what the world thinks of me, and now I just try to do the best I can for myself."

Goehr's obsession with time

BBCPO/Dowries
Albert Hall

Alexander Goehr has been diffident in the face of the symphony. At the age of 54 he completed his third and by far most substantial work in the form: it received its first London performance last night, a year and a half after its Manchester premiere by the BBC Philharmonic and Edward Dowries, who commissioned it.

The same forces brought it to the Prom, and confirmed its impression as a dense, 45-minute tapestry of a work, with not a dead or a complacent note in it. It functions like a huge timepiece, preparing for and retreating from a third-movement chaconne with 35 repetitions. It is the process of repetition which stimulates Goehr's preoccupation here with time: with its twin illusions of slowness and rapidity, and with the opportunity for harmonic and rhythmic development even within repetition.

The chaconne itself is prefaced by words from Richard II: "And here is not a preacher but myself".

PROMENADE CONCERT

Although its scoring - liquid with bells and drooping woodwind, hollow and reverberant with pitched percussion - enables it to work superbly as mood music, it is its structural strength which is the more powerful presence.

The consciousness of time is all-pervasive in the two earlier movements: the first propulsive with syncopation, nervous and fretful in its rhythmic and instrumental disposition; the second a scherzo of splinters and fragments played with a weightless velocity at which the orchestra had already excelled in Mendelssohn's *Ruy Blas* Overture. For all its mercurial invention and uncompromising craftsmanship, the symphony's abiding impression is, curiously enough, one of a certain lack of confidence. The same could not be said of the evening's box-office bait, Ida Hendeel's performance of Beethoven's Violin Concerto. Adamantine of purpose, she issued with muscular stiffness and orchestral tenderness in a performance of teeth-gritting determination.

Hilary Finch

Some problems of communication

THEATRE

Blood on the Neck of the Cat
St Bride's Centre

The Schiller-Theater Werkstatt of Berlin has brought some sorely needed quality into a hitherto mediocre second week of the Festival's official programme. Working on a Rainer Werner Fassbinder piece from 1971, the company turns a cryptic example of so-called "Anti-theatre" into a demonstration of ensemble playing, powerful and crisp enough to persuade one, at least during the performance, that the play has genuine intellectual content.

The relevance of the title to this content is not exactly apparent, and uncertainty is compounded by the sub-title (in French in the original) *Marilyn Monroe contre les vampires*. In fact, the play's matter is that fashionable concern of the period: communication and its problems.

From a distant star, Phoebe Zeitgeist comes down to earth to learn how humans live. She speaks human words but cannot understand their meaning, and her shrimp-pink flapper outfit is 50 years behind the 1971 German citizens she lands among.

Their meeting is non-realistically staged on a tilted black circle ringed with tiny lights: Phoebe (a study of dangerous innocence from Barbara Frey) at centre, and the Soldier, the Model, the Butcher and the rest of them, nine in all, slumped in a crescent of armchairs beyond her. They are all silent, but when they start interacting with each other, usually sexually again, she picks up phrases at random which she pops into the conversation once it is her turn.

As for the citizens with her, so for us with Fassbinder, and so for us with the play's origin to the author's complicated homo-

sexuality. Be that as it may, the cast's performances give a quite exceptional reality to the individuals they play.

Unlike the Kazum production of the same play in English at the Festival Club, where the music used is fairly contemporary pop, Klaus Andre's production uses a pizzicato dance tune by Michael Rugeberg, endlessly repeated and increasingly insubstantial. Further viewing of the play might similarly overexpose its content, but a production of this top quality at least gives all its strengths the chance to show themselves.

Jeremy Kingston

OPERA

Greek
Leith

Mark Anthony Turnage's *Greek* is a gripping piece of theatre, and a courageous one at that. Steven Berkoff has criticized Turnage's and the producer Jonathan Moore's adaptation of his play for an emphasis on anti-Thatcherism at the expense of what lies at the heart of this Oedipal tale in the East End. He has a point: the police riot scene, for instance, is done with more brutal venom than mere context-setting merits.

Otherwise, however, this is an impressive first opera which penetrates the truth in the tragicomic clichés of East End working life. Rich in influences ranging from the blues to Italian opera to Britain and beyond, its music is powered by a fertility of imagination and a sureness of form and direction one can only marvel at. The singing and acting of Helen Charnock (Mama), Fiona Kimm (Wife), Richard Saur (Dad) and, especially, Quentin Hayes (Eddy) is always alert, while the instrumental element of the score is powerfully realized by the Almeida Ensemble under Stan Edwards.

Stephen Pettitt

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

DANCE

A beauty fallen among thieves

Mandala
Playhouse

We knew from their performances with Nureyev in London three years ago that the Matsuyama Ballet from Tokyo could succeed with classic Western ballets such as *Giselle* and *Swan Lake*. Now they have brought to Edinburgh a ballet specially made for them on a Japanese subject.

Mandala, inspired by a tapestry from the 8th century, is about a pair of star-crossed lovers. Moe is a Christian girl (a capital offence at that time), the slave of two robber brothers. Hokuba - a young painter, finds her while searching for an image of ideal beauty to complete his mandala, an allegorical picture for the Buddhist temple. There are many incidents before they die in each other's arms, but not much plot: mainly meditation or spectacle.

The two comic villains (vividly played by Kazuhiro Kaneda and Soichiro Sadamatsu) are the most interesting characters. Their make-up calls Kabuki to mind but, for a balletic antecedent, one must look to the trolls in Bournonville's *Folk Tale*. These are similarly differentiated: one smug, one angry - a nicely complementary pair to fleece suckers by gambling with loaded dice.

They use Moe's innocence as a



Yoko Morishita: she would not have found the choreography taxing

lure, but when Hokuba stakes his all for her freedom, she is not too innocent to turn the dice over while everyone's attention is distracted, so that he wins. This sequence, with its virile character dancing, its tension and its comedy, is the ballet's high point.

Elsewhere, Tetsutaro Shimizu's choreography and production introduce a lot of local colour in the form of a village festival, a tapestry that comes to life, groups of Samurai warriors. But there is comparatively little influence of other Japanese theatre or dance forms, so the flavour is thin.

Some of the duets make good use of Yoko Morishita's yearningly expressive arms as Moe, but her solos rely too heavily on her quiet sincerity, without really extending her choreographically; it comes as a relief when she is allowed a flash of humour, a moment of happiness to vary the tone.

Shimizu has given himself a uniformly earnest role, too, as Hokuba. The large supporting cast have more variety of mood and character: each person in the

crowd is given individuality, and the dancers all appear in several guises.

One incursion of female demons introduces a possibly unprecedented form of locomotion: they sit with one foot curled up behind their necks, and bounce forward on the other buttock. But mostly the movement is less interesting than the theatrical presentation.

Yoshihiro Kanno's eclectic score is recorded by the Shinsei Nikon Philharmonic Orchestra, plus solo Japanese bamboo instruments for a more plaintive episode and a Buddhist chant. Its insistent rhythms, heavy beat and, often, big volume make it effective theatrically, but probably not apt for hearing apart from the ballet.

Perhaps it is unfair to be disappointed that the ballet does not dig deeper into Japanese life and art: how many British ballets do that to our resources? As a colourful show, *Mandala* won an enthusiastic response from its Edinburgh audience.

John Percival

Touched with the freshness of youth

THEATRE

Much Ado About Nothing
Phoenix

The Renaissance Theatre Company, after its triumphant Birmingham season, now arrives in the West End with the same three plays, beginning with this irresistible production by Judi Dench.

For all its popularity, *Much Ado* is an extremely hard piece to get right. Dame Judi opts for an 18th-century Messina; but only as a fitting environment for civilized pleasure. This company does not go in for concept production; and it is thanks to the casting that the tragicomic balance works out.

The main key is youth. Instead of the usual spectacle of two well-established leading actors taking off into their sure-fire combative routines as Beatrice and Benedick, Samantha Bond and Kenneth Branagh are still in the process of discovering who they are. Their verbal duels are anything but glib. Words sometimes fail them. Sometimes they retire hurt from the fray. When Richard Clifford's Don Pedro switches on his dazzling smile and asks Beatrice whether she will have him, it knocks the breath out of her. She can barely whisper the word no, before resuming the game.

Branagh is even more given to collapsing in mid-air. He is full of Lucky Jim joke voices expressing alternative personalities, and even when he gets into his bluff stride, he is apt to puncture it with self-mocking over-emphasis. His exasperation with Beatrice is so extreme that it becomes comic independently of the text. Then, at the moment of reversal, we hear his exclamation, "Love? Me?" in an incredulous falsetto: followed by "The world must be peopled", in the voice of a resolute eunuch.

With such a beginning, the church scene develops into an intensely moving encounter, as

the partners renounce the safety of derision for the quicksands of desire, and their hands remain locked together through the "Kill Claudio" exchange. They can every step of their emotional growth.

The same goes for James Larkin's Claudio: again a juvenile and highly vulnerable figure, akin to the irresolute lovers of 18th-century comedy, whose rejection of Hero is amply forecast by his early suspicions of Don Pedro and by his pessimistic insistence on death and defeat even in the eavesdropping game. You may not like him, but you can understand him as another victim of the pains of youth.

Played against a simple white back-cloth (the first variation on Jenny Tiramani's adaptable set), the show opens in blazing sunlight with Leonardo's family looting about over outdoor pastimes before the news of Don Pedro's return scatters the board games and knitting all over the stage. That sets the festive tone for the evening. There are occasional lapses (such as an ill-judged and unfunny treatment of Dogberry and his merry men).

Otherwise it is an occasion of high-pressure, warm-hearted comedy, summed up in the eavesdropping scene by the sight of Leonardo (Richard Easton) raising his voice for Benedick's benefit, and looking to Don Pedro and Claudio for approval.

Irving Wardle

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ENO LONDON COLISEUM

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REVIEW

The cult of ignorance

PAPERBACK

The Closing of the American Mind, by Allan Bloom (Penguin £8.95)

As our battered century limps towards the blank horizon of a new millennium, someone arrives to tell us that we cannot know enough without knowing more than enough. We disagree about who is best qualified for the role; but no one doubts that it is an historic, almost inevitable duty. Coleridge's frenzied scholarship enacted it at the end of the 18th-century; Arnold and Nietzsche expanded it into prophecy at the end of the 19th. Perhaps it is a measure of this century's emaciation that it should be left to Allan Bloom — less poetic than Arnold, less rigorous than Nietzsche — to perform these last rites.

Professor Bloom accuses Americans not just of knowing less than enough, but of dogmatically refusing to know more than enough. They are not just casually ignorant of the world, they deliberately ignore it. Bloom blames cultural relativism. Year after year he asks his freshmen students at the University of Chicago if they believe in the possibility of discriminating between good and bad. They do not. Indeed, they see any

kind of discrimination, any prejudice about knowledge, as dangerous.

They call this "open-ness" — open-ness to the relativism of truth, open-ness to the claims of all. Bloom calls it closedness. But his book is not just about the closing of the American mind; it is also about the closing of the 20th-century. We have no decent causes, Bloom believes, because we have abandoned "the authority of men's Reason". Put very briefly, Bloom believes that we have turned the capital-lettered certainties of our Enlightenment heritage (Reason, God, Truth, Nature) into the italicized uncertainties of our new relativism (do you really believe in *truth*? we ask).

Bloom sees the results every day at Chicago. Students no longer read, no longer listen to classical music, have no heroes, are afraid to risk "I love you" in relationships. And their university fails to give them the crucial guidance they need. "Only Socrates knew, after a lifetime of unceasing labour, that he was ignorant. Now every high-school student knows that. How did it become so easy?"

But Bloom is also too easy. Too hard on modernity, he is also too soft on himself. He caricatures relativism —

relativism is all bad, always leads to dogmatic ignorance — so as to deny the possibility of a truly productive scepticism, such as that possessed by Montaigne, or Hume (who is not mentioned), or our own Jacques Derrida (mentioned once). He blames the ignorance of his students on the relativism of their teachers, but offers little evidence that a simple causal connection is all there is to it. His faith in Culture and Reason — get students back to the Great Books is his panacea — goes against all the evidence of our horrid century. If he believes like Arnold, as he seems to do, that the humanities do humanize, then he should wrestle before our eyes with the likes of George Steiner, let alone with the commandments at Belsen who read Goethe.

He chastizes mass culture (for swamping high culture in the minds of the young), but keeps his eyes closed and his head snobbishly averted as he administers the beating (this chapter on rock music is embarrassingly ignorant). And, of course, a vicious little paradox that Bloom could not have foreseen now assails him. His book, with its gaps and its gripes, has become a paperback bestseller, and thus the property of the mass culture he so despises.

Yet he is unavoidably moving and courageous.

James Wood



Journeys into the sound of the East

INDIAN RECORDS

Imrat Khan Rag Darbari, Rag Chandra Kandra Nimbus NI 5118
Rag Narayan Rag Bhupai Tori, Rag Patap Nimbus NI 5119

The recording of improvised music would seem to be against its nature, particularly in the case of Indian virtuosi, whose art is to meditate between the timeless rag and the particular conditions of their performance: it is an art for musician and audience to achieve together. However, these beautiful recordings are certainly not to be overlooked.

As Neil Sorrell points out in his courteous and informative notes, the dimensions of the compact disc allow one, for the first time, to savour im-

provisations lasting for more than three-quarters of an hour (though my machine refused to get to the end of the very long Ram Narayan recording). What benefits most from this lengthened time is Imrat Khan's unburied exposition on the surbahar (bass sitar) of the saty "Rag Darbari", where a long, winding alap is followed by a brief, quickish coda without tabla accompaniment.

Also well worth hearing, particularly if your player will stay the course, is Ram Narayan on the superbly sonorous sarangi, a bowed instrument with sympathetically vibrating strings: this is the Indian cello, or more nearly baryton, vocal in its variety of phrasing and colour as it is played here.

Paul Griffiths

Bubbling bowls of salsa

Celia Cruz introducing the Queen of Salsa (Caliente HOT 112)
Celia Cruz & Willie Colon The Winners (HOT 113)
Ruben Blades & Willie Colon Metiendo Mano (HOT 103)
Orchestra Marlow Salsa (HOT 104)

Thanks to the dedication of such disc jockeys as Dave Hacker and Sue Steward, Latin music seems at last to have established a permanent niche in London's night clubs. Now the people at Charly Records are feeding the resulting demand with a stream of albums originating from the most illustrious New York Latin labels: Tico, Vaya, Alegre and Fania, whose catalogues feature most of the great names of the contemporary style known as salsa.

If you want to know about salsa, you had better start by familiarizing yourself with Ce-

LATIN RECORDS

lia Cruz, who is the Aretha, the Piaf, the Celia of Afro-Cuban music. Introducing the Queen of Salsa is just about the best possible anthology of her work in the Seventies for the Fania label, accompanied by a galaxy of Latin stars, including the flautist and arranger Johnny Pacheco, the conga-player Ray Barreto and the superlative pianist Papo Lucca. "Quimbara", "Cucala", "Bamba Colora" and "Soy Antillana" are among the tracks that would turn the most sedate British living room into a Spanish Harlem dance hall.

Willie Colon, a sophisticated young trombonist and composer, is among those trying to modernize salsa by blending it with elements of jazz and rock. *The Winners* starts badly, with a limp crossover attempt called "Un Bembé Pa'

Yemaya", but thereafter takes on a more conventional aspect, with imaginative use of a trombone choir.

Ruben Blades, the Panamanian singer who recently issued an album of collaborations with Lou Reed, Sting and Elvis Costello, was a young man of unmistakable promise in 1977, when the excellent *Metiendo Mano* was recorded with Colon in the producer's chair. Even then, a ballad such as "Me Recordaras" showed Blades' inclination away from the straight and narrow.

Larry Harlow, who is about as Latin as Larry Adler, was another young star of the middle Seventies; unlike Blades, however, he seems to have fallen into obscurity. *Salsa*, from 1974, features his imaginative arrangements, with impressive lead singing by Junior Gonzalez.

Richard Williams

Mica has arrived, right on time

ROCK RECORD

Mica Paris So Good (4th & Broadway BRLP 525)

If nothing else, Mica Paris' impromptu contribution from the floor at Prince's "private" Camden Palace gig demonstrated a flair for being in the right place at the right time. Now, with an indigenous British soul scene gathering momentum, and a couple of hits under her belt ("My One Temptation", "Like Dreamers Do"), the 18-year-old Londoner's debut album arrives with similarly perfect timing.

So Good oozes class. Contributions from "wonder boy" Courtney Pine together with two of the Jazz Warriors, Kevin Robinson (flugelhorn) and Orphy Robinson (vibes),

lend it an air of jazz respectability, while the seamless, dancer-friendly rhythm tracks and lush synthesized backdrops maintain a thoroughly modern pop environment for her sensual voice.

At times the cake is a bit too rich. The sultry, swishing saxophone intro to "Sway (Dance the Blues Away)" could be the soundtrack for any number of luxury lifestyle adverts. Too much romping slap on "Breathe Life Into Me" quickly results in an overly-manufactured feel.

Although a lot of wind is called for when she duets with Paul Johnson on "Words Into Action", the mood is generally one of sophisticated restraint. As the glamorous cover portrait suggests, a star is being meticulously groomed.

David Sinclair

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

An elderly rope trick

An intriguing curiosity goes on show among the Spencers, Freuds, Nicholsons and Pasmores at the forthcoming 20th-century Art Fair which opens in London next month. It is a Braque-like semi-cubist work, framed in heavy rope, with which Evelyn Waugh, Lytton Strachey and Diana Mitford once played a huge and extended joke upon art loving public, dealers and critics alike. It was part of an exhibition by the so-called discovery Bruno Hat (as in trick) — in fact, a lesser work by the Surrealist painter John Banting. Dealer Peter Nahum, a former director of Sotheby's, probably hopes it will enjoy as much fame in its own right now as a vintage Keating.

There are problems in the air for Yuri Temirkanov, the Leningrad Philharmonic's new principal conductor. He is just about to record complete Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky cycles for RCA, and his international recording career is about to take off. Unfortunately this will require him to jet between London, Leningrad and Philadelphia and Yuri, 50, suffers from a fear of flying.

Free bard

Stratford-on-Avon theatre-goers can have an extra dose of Shakespeare when they leave tonight's *The Tempest*. Teenagers, chosen after a series of nationwide auditions, will be giving their own late night production in a riverside marquee outside the Memorial Theatre. It is directed by RSC assistant director Stephen Rayne and London education officer Gordon Scammell.



The cast, many of whom are still awaiting their A level results, wrote both words and music for the show and even made their own instruments. They have a helping hand with their acting from four RSC professionals: Miles Anderson, Amanda Root, Tony (brother of Joan) Armatrading and Claudette Williams.

Angela Wilkes

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, September 12. Entries should be sent to The Times Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, September 17.

Concise Jumbo Crossword

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Monday

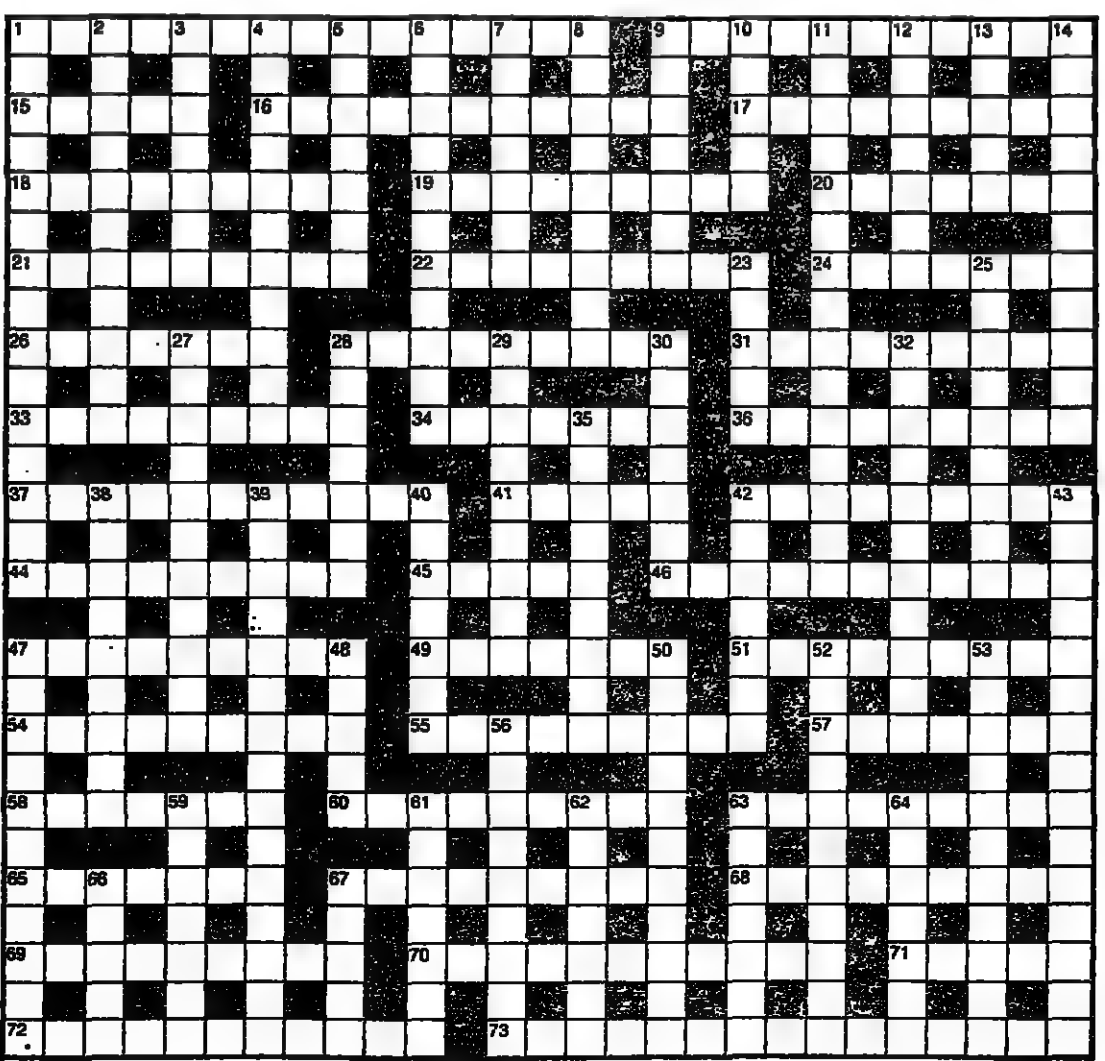
- ACROSS
- 1 Marks of different ranks on the staff in America (5,3,7).
 - 9 Article 1201 misrepresented this critical period (11).
 - 15 Costume decoration in church in the French way (5).
 - 16 Make of it no Titanic disaster, wink, wink (11).
 - 17 Outlawry to achieve red revolution (9).
 - 18 He cheats with bridge winnings — better avoid the wager (9).
 - 19 Tully, in short, has a little time to show this mark of battle (9).
 - 20 Upper class shows in the press as impetuous types (7).
 - 21 What an anonymous writer told Malvolio not to fear (9).
 - 22 Set right like soldiers out of line? (9).
 - 24 End fuel difficulty with the requisite money (7).
 - 26 Country mansion let out in Washington (7).
 - 28 Gin with ale as a new formula for relief of pain (9).
 - 31 Sarah's holding piano arrangement for public school boys (9).
 - 33 How Cynara's lover flung roses with the throng (9).
 - 34 Martial work, note, by two farm animals (7).
 - 36 Lacking courage, unlike Mrs Tiggy-Winkle (9).
 - 37 A sempstress such as Cleopatra? (11).
 - 41 Many pennies from heaven go down it (5).
 - 42 Benefit society to reprimand driver perhaps (5-4).
 - 44 Lords wait for this fish to be cooked (5-4).
 - 45 In this appears a Greek courtesan (5).
 - 46 Sounds like vulgar Murphy is the sports reporter (11).
 - 47 Pet show as possible scene of exploited labour (5-4).
 - 49 Sword-belt, unadorned, given to Lionheart (not difficult) (7).
 - 51 I am on the day preceding you, we hear, without rehearsals (9).
 - 54 Restaurant making money by the lake side (9).
 - 55 Revised codes open for inspection of the inner man (9).
 - 57 Greek god put back in a piece of mosaic (7).
 - 58 Are quavers necessary to achieve this musical effect? (7).
 - 60 Month is neither quick nor dead, but progress is funeral (4,5).
 - 63 Cambridge disciplinarian receives note from Cromwell (9).
 - 65 More dapper shade of blue (7).
 - 67 Countryman right away taken by a company for sound qualities (9).
 - 68 Peps said to be troubled with this ailment (9).
 - 69 Copying one widow's contribution about Caesar's life in retrospect (9).
 - 70 The difference between gods and groundlings (5,6).
 - 71 Messrs tag-end of Hamlet's play (5).
 - 72 New eastern tavern sign provides the high-light (7,4).
 - 73 One much improved by the Christmas spirit (8,7).

- 2 Old ship contains portion of potato and ale returning to the islands (11).
- 3 "Wee... oow-rin", timorous beastie" (Burns's mouse) (7).
- 4 All the same — or greater presumably? (4-3-4).
- 5 Makes fast, if unorthodox, rescues (7).
- 6 Born again, earn certain transformation (11).
- 7 How the boulder ran, being caught by copper and newsmen? (7).
- 8 Unable to move? So inefficient! (9).
- 9 Are stamps able to be bought at a US confectionery? (7).
- 10 Representation, say, Pierre's friend put up (5).
- 11 Like the fourth of its six syllables (15).
- 12 Caesar's due for a eulogy for instance (7).
- 13 High pressure line deprives bird of part (5).
- 14 Classy shire plagued by potential butterflies (11).
- 23 Records non-U missile being thrown at the games (5).
- 25 The musical bean? (9).
- 27 Wrens as cave-dwellers (11).
- 28 Lamb, say, going astray shows such ignorance (7).
- 29 Capital accommodation for Gog and Magog (9).
- 30 From this annual man accumulates facts (7).
- 32 Swanking about wine in a religious setting (11).
- 35 Again declares the wrong way to emphasize a sign of hesitation (9).
- 38 One Hamelin evacuee enters river — clear? (9).
- 39 Earth badger now arranged to include one rain-repeller (7-8).
- 40 Remarkable reason for eating off the floor? (7).
- 42 Old Italian's name seen in Tennyson's mystic and wonderful material (7).
- 43 Figure for maritime losses in the West Atlantic (7,8).
- 47 Might describe the kernel, say, or part of speech (11).
- 48 Iron cupboard (5).
- 50 Tanner's song implies its use for a domestic hanging job (7-4).
- 52 Terrible suspense it appears about love. Ruth thereby excited (11).
- 53 It's held up by 48 one moment afterwards, extremely fast (11).
- 56 Middle-easterner's capital way to ornament a sword (9).
- 59 Paper designing banking system to be put up on a motorway (7).
- 61 Rondo, re-edited, has been indented for (2,5).
- 62 Second edition is concerning progeny (7).
- 63 Physical education with about fifty bones or a small stalk (7).
- 64 George I was one — conclusion of the reader (7).
- 66 Went wrong without one coil (5).
- 67 Turn away a greeting? Right (5).

Solution to No 1652 (yesterday's concise crossword)

ACROSS: 1 Facade 4 Foiled 9 Distort 10 Elbow 11 Sweet 12 Bachelor 14 Infamy 15 Humbug 18 Burgonet 20 Pout 22 Apart 23 Schemed 25 Disarm 26 Heavy

DOWN: 1 Fad 2 Cast-off 3 Doom 5 Overhaul 6 Label 7 Downright 8 Straw 11 Sailboard 13 Imposter 16 Bloomer 17 Tease 19 Remains 21 Tease 24 Day



Name _____

Address _____

- DOWN
- 1 Realm of fantasy (5,6,4)
 - 2 Bring up food (1,2)
 - 3 Scots beyond (7)
 - 4 Harness traces crossbar (11)
 - 5 Fall to snare (3,4)
 - 6 Animal stuffer (11)
 - 7 Provokes (7)
 - 8 Naturally thin type (9)
 - 9 Favourable omen (7)
 - 10 Hindu class (5)
 - 11 Closely impending disaster (5,2,8)
 - 12 On the whole (7)
 - 13 Yiddish dull bore (5)
 - 14 Of spine, joints (11)
 - 15 Small brimless hat (5)
 - 16 Position giver (9)
 - 17 Parliament termination (11)
 - 18 Baked egg milk dish (7)
 - 19 Edible items (9)
 - 20 Doctrinal argument (7)
 - 21 Secondhand garment (5-2,4)
 - 22 First gum eruption (4,5)
 - 23 Cork (9)
 - 24 Of no account (15)
 - 25 Wrap (7)
 - 26 Kilt pouch (7)
 - 27 Wounded carrier (9,6)
 - 28 Gold hunters (11)
 - 29 Facilities (5)
 - 30 Scorpion grass (6-2,3)
 - 31 Sled sport (11)
 - 32 Recent forebear (11)
 - 33 There and back journey (5,4)
 - 34 Absence of government (7)
 - 35 Disorder (7)
 - 36 Highbrow (7)
 - 37 Nourishment (7)
 - 38 Slacken (3,2)
 - 39 Lowest opera males (5)

Solution to No 1647 (last Saturday's prize crossword)

ACROSS: 1 Fresco 5 Orals 8 Nod 9 Oblige 10 Instal 11 Keep 12 Immunity 14 Aspire 15 Round 16 Langlauf 18 Rapt 19 Speedo 21 Exotic 22 Mrs 23 Dross 24 Hosier

DOWN: 2 Rubber-stamped 3 Stipping 4 One-time 5 Odium 6 Asst 7 Starting price 13 Notorious 15 Refresh 17 Atoms 20 Egg

The winners of prize concise No 1647 are: Mrs M. Care, Dover Street, Norwich, Norfolk; and Jon Aldridge, Magdalen College, Oxford.

THE WEEK AHEAD



THEATRE

TOUGH OF CLASS: Kenneth Branagh is Touchstone in the Renaissance Theatre Company's production of *As You Like It*, which reaches the West End after a successful tour of the regions. It will play in repertory with *Hamlet*, in which Branagh takes the title role, and *Much Ado About Nothing*, in which he plays Benedick. *As You Like It* marks the widely-praised directing debut of the actress, Geraldine McEwan. Phoenix Theatre, London WC2 (01-636 2294), opens Wednesday after previews.



ROCK

NEO-NASHVILLE: David McComb, the singer with the Australian band The Triffids, has more presence than some of the Americans who cover the same sort of old, as opposed to new, country material by such august personages as Johnny Cash. Expect to hear this sort of material and songs from their album *Calenture*, released by Island Records, when they play the international in Manchester on Wednesday (061 234 5050) and the Dominion Theatre in London on Thursday (01-580 9562).



GALLERY

COME DANCING: Allen Jones, pop artist and Royal College graduate in the famous Hockney *annus mirabilis*, last exhibited here in 1985 when it was suggested his work had become safely middle-aged. After 15 years painting and sculpting dolly birds in fetish clothing, which attracted vandalism by militant feminists, he had moved on to making jolly but inoffensive ballroom dancers in brightly painted sheet metal. Jones's recent sculptures and prints are on show at Waddington Galleries, (01-437 8611). From Thursday.



OPERA

NIXON IN CHINA: Richard Nixon's visit to China was the inspiration for a new opera by John Adams which is receiving its British premiere this week. Paul Griffiths hailed its first performance in Houston last October: festival opera-goers, already unsettled by performances of *Turandot* and *Greek*, may settle down to a romantic-minimalist piece of music-theatre, with its ballet of the Red Detachment of Women, and its arias for Kissinger and Mr & Mrs Mao. Playhouse Edinburgh (031 225 5756), from Thursday.



BOOK

CAMERA MAN: Man Ray saw himself as a leading painter of the Dada and Surrealist movements in Paris during the Twenties. History will probably judge him a second-rate painter, but one of the best photographers of this century; ironically, he only took up the craft in order to record his paintings. His candid *Self Portrait* (Bloomsbury, £25) has long been unavailable in English, but is nicely packaged here with 240 illustrations, many previously unpublished, and an afterword by Juliet Man Ray.



CONCERT

MEISTER MAREK: Marek Janowski, who spent a memorable period in England as artistic adviser to the RLPO, and who has made impressive recordings of *The Ring* and the Brahms symphonies, visits the Proms again. Wagner and Brahms dominate the programme: the Preludes to Acts I and II of *Die Meistersingers* and the Symphony No 4 will be played by the BBC SO with Lydia Mordkovich as the soloist in Szymanowski's Second Violin Concerto. Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-379 4444), Thursday, 7.30pm.

A 'festa' of Italian art

Alberto di Mamo (right) could not have picked a worse time to move offices. As director of the Italian Institute in Edinburgh, he is largely responsible for injecting the Italian flavour into this year's festival, as well as the Italian money — around £250,000 worth in cash or kind. The Institute had to flit just three days before the festival started and, in that time, set up an exhibition of rare travel books and prints of the *Kingdom of the Two Sicilies* in its new home and have it ready for the opening of the festival. The "two Sicilies" refers to the time when Sicily was one kingdom under the Bourbons and ruled from Naples.

It is mostly art from the south of Italy and Naples which is featured at this year's festival, as opposed to the more familiar glories of the Renaissance which, for the most part, originate in the north — Venice, Florence, Siena, and the rest. "You can see a lot of difference," argues di Mamo, himself a Sicilian. "Naples has its own peculiar culture as you can see from the exhibitions here; in the paintings you can admire the



theatrical quality of life. There is a kind of vivacity which is inherited from the centuries. It's such a warm, people live more outside. And we have had so many

Normans, Arabs, everybody. And everyone left something, so there's a cultural stratification, in the language and dialects as well."

This weekend sees the largest concentration of Italian work so far. In addition to a number of exhibitions, the opera *Le Cenerentola*, the farce *Miseria e Nobilita* and the gorgeously painted Sicilian marionettes are still playing. Next week sees the arrival of *Pepe e Barra*, a kind of Neapolitan vaudeville, and from Reggio Emilia in the north, the Aterballetto with a programme which includes an imaginary journey through southern Italy in the footsteps of the young Mozart, plus the orchestra of the Maggio Musicale from Florence with music by Rossini and Verdi — the Requiem to finish off the festivities.

What with endless first nights and having to get into his new office at 6.30 most mornings just to keep up, di Mamo will be quite relieved when it is all over.

Robert Dawson Scott
Edinburgh Festival bookings: 031 226 4011; cc 031 225 5756.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

THE CAT CINDERELLA: First visit to Britain of the original version of *Cinderella*. More a play with songs than an opera. (Italian with English subtitles.) King's Theatre, Leven St (031 225 5756), 7.30-10.30pm, £4.50-£12.50. Ends tonight.

MISERIA E NOBILITA: Roughly translated as "Rich Man, Poor Man" the classic Italian comedy is directed by Mario Scarpitta, a descendant of the writer and father figure of Neapolitan farce, Eduardo Scarfetta. Performed in Italian. Simultaneous translation available. Royal Lyceum Theatre, Grindley St (031 225 5756), £4.50-£22. Tonight at 7-8.40pm, tomorrow at 2.30pm.

PEPE E BARRA: Italy's notorious mother and son act reflecting Naples's healthy tradition of vulgarity. "You will die of laughter," predicts *La Repubblica*. Performed in Italian. Simultaneous translation available. Leith Theatre, Ferry Rd (031 225 5756), Thurs-Sat 3 at 7.30pm, Sept 4 at 2.30pm, £2.50-£7.

ATERBALLETO: This 10-year-old company from the North of Italy presents four very different dance pieces including *Parade*, based on a story by Cocteau; and *Love*

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Songs, a modern ballet choreographed by American William Forsythe.

King's Theatre, Leven St (031 225 5756), Fri and Sat 3 at 7.30pm, Oct Sept 3 at 2.30pm, £3-£8.

ORCHESTRA OF THE MAGGIO MUSICALE OF FLORENCE: This is the orchestra maintained by Florence's festival. Usher Hall, Lothian Rd (031 225 5756), 8pm, £5.50-£15, Thurs-Sept 3.

THE WALLACE COLLECTION: A fine selection of 16th-century ceremonial music from Venice in the capable mouthpieces of John Wallace and friends. Queen's Hall, South Clerk St (031 225 5756), 11am, £4-£10. Sept 3 only.

FROM TWEED TO TIBER: As any of Edinburgh's Italian restaurant owners will tell you, the Scots and the Italians have plenty in common besides a love of pasta. Here the Saltire Society provide music and verse to celebrate the historic and literary links between the two nations.

REALITY AND IMAGINATION

An assemblage of 39 works showing the Naples of the 17th-19th centuries. City Art Centre, 2 Market St (031 225 2424), Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2pm-5pm. Free. Until Sept 24.

IN THE SHADOW OF VESUVIUS: Some of most precious treasures from Pompeii and Herculaneum, never before seen outside Italy and on show in the newly refurbished galleries of the Royal Museum of Scotland, which are worth an exhibition in themselves. Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers St (031 225 7534 ext 221), Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Free. Until Sept 28.

PIETRO LONGHI, THE PAINTINGS OF THE PALAZZO LEON MONTANARI: A series of paintings by Longhi and members of his School which provide an exquisite and, by Venetian standards, subtle record of life in mid-18th century Venice. National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, (031 556 8921 ext 25), Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-6pm. Free. Until Sept 3.

THE FRINGE

FORZA NAPOLE: Simon Goodrich's joyful series of paintings and

drawings illustrating the theatricality of street life in Naples today.

Netherbow Arts Centre, 43 High St (031 556 9579), Mon-Sat 9.5am-11.30pm. Free. Until Sept 3.

THE FOREIGN WANDERER IN THE KINGDOM OF THE TWO SICILIES: Rare travel books and watercolours from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Italian Institute, 82 Nicolson St (031 226 3173), 9am-5pm. Free. Until Sept 9 (not Sat or Sun).

MARCOVALDO: The comic misadventures of Marcovaldo, taken from a collection of short stories by Italo Calvino, and performed with great style and technical ingenuity by Abie Bodles. Breakfast provided! St Columba's by the Castle (venue 4), Johnston Terrace (031 220 1410), 10.30am-noon, £2.50 (concessions £2). Until Sept 3.

THEATRE

FEMALE PARTS: Dario Fo and Franca Rame's tragic-comedy, splendidly performed by Victoria Braverman as the woman who doesn't like having a tongue in her ear and likes getting pregnant even less.

Cello Lodge Brodie's Close, Lawnmarket (031 225 7097), 2.55pm, £3.50 (concessions £2.50). Until Sept 3 (not Sun).

THEATRE LONDON

THE BITE OF THE NIGHT: Nigel Terry encounters Diane Fletcher as Helen of Troy in a new Howard Barker play directed for the RSC by Danny Boyle.

The Pit, Barbican, (01-638 8891). Previews from Thurs. Opens Sept 5. In repertory.

LEAD'S DAUGHTERS: Women's Theatre Group, directed by Gwenda Hughes, revive their 1987 success for a national tour. Young Vic Studio, 66 The Cut, SE1 (01-828 6363). Preview Tues. Opens Wed.

POTESTAD: English language premiere of Argentinian Eduardo Pavlovsky's play, as seen in L.F.T. 1987.

Theatre Royal, 111 Pembroke Road, W11 (01-229 0706). Previews Tues and Wed. Opens Thurs.

ROOSTERS: Nancy Dlugid directs a tale of Hispanic machismo in New Mexico by Miché Sanchez Scott. Bush Theatre, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (01-743 3388). Previews Wed, Thurs. Opens Fri.

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW: RSC Stratford production with Brian Cox and Fiona Shaw, directed by Jonathan Miller. Barbican (01-638 8891). Previews from Thurs. Opens Sept 6. In repertory.

OUT OF TOWN

BRIGHTON: Ladybirds: Karl Howman, Diane Keen, Kenneth Macdonald, in a new comedy by Don Webb. National tour. Theatre Royal (0273 28488). Opens Mon.

BRIMLEY: Something to Hide: Patricia Garwood, Dominic Guard and Leslie Sands in a thriller written by Sands. Touring. Churchill (01-460 6877). Opens Wed.

EXETER: Fair Game: 1892 Feydeau farce, directed by Martin Harvey. Northcott (0392 54853). Opens Tues.

GLASGOW: The Lady from the Sea: Tom Cairns directs and designs a production of the Ibsen drama in the temporary Studio Theatre, during re-building. Citizens' (041 429 5561). Opens Fri.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

OCCAMY: (a) A tawdry, tinselly metallic alloy imitating silver and gold, a corrupt form of alchemy. "The dawning spirit of conventionalism giving the occultist shield of Chivalry."

QUADRILAT: (b) Having four wheels, from the Latin *quadri-* four + *potens* powerful, mighty. "The stately Embassy limousines waited in their regal uniforms like great vespertine peacocks."

DUMFUSION: (c) Thickens and stolidifies, when struck dumb and all of a heap, a portmanteau word from dumb and confusion. Beckett: "Her assidue dumfussion."

NOTTINGHAM: The Business of Murder: Richard Harris's West End thriller success begins a national tour. Richard Todd, Peter Byrne, Sandra Payne. Theatre Royal (0602 482826). Opens Mon.

OPERA

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Open their new season boldly with a revival of their *West Side Story* style *Carmen*. Jean Rigby returns to the title role with Jacques Trussard as Don José, and Yan Pascal Tortelier conducting. Performances on Tues and Fri at 7pm. Tonight at 8pm. Tosca set in Rome, 1944, with Janice Cairns and Edmund Bartham.

Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-636 3161).

PROMS OPERA: Glyndebourne's *Faust* arrives, semi-staged, at the Proms tonight at 7pm with its original cast and conducted by Bernard Haitink.

Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-379 4444 or 01-589 8212).

CONCERTS

END OF FEELING: The "Feeling of Music" series ends with Jeffrey Tate conducting the ECO in Britten's *Choral Symphony* (Raphael Wallfisch, soloist) and Schubert's *Symphony No 9*.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-528 3191, cc 01-928 8800). Today, 7.45pm.

JAZZ PROM: The National Youth Jazz Orchestra takes over the

Albert Hall with pieces by Paul Hart, Paul Higgs, Chris Smith, Rick Taylor, Harry South. And there will be guitar solos by John Williams. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-589 8212, cc 01-379 4444). Mon, 7pm.

WIGMORE BEGINNINGS: The new Wigmore Hall season opens with Jessye Norman singing Beethoven's *Gellert Lieder*, six *Lieder* each by Schumann and Brahms, four *melodies* by Debussy and the *Air de Lia* from his *L'Enfant Prodigue*. Phillip Moll is at the piano.

Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-635 2141). Fri, 7.30pm.

ROCK

TANITA TIKARAM: Celebrating a Top 10 hit with her first single, "Good Tradition". Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh (031 226 2427). Mon and Tues.

DAVID LEE ROTH: Flamboyant ex-Queen Helen seizes last week at the ill-fated Donington Monsters of Rock festival.

Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01-741 4081). Tues and Wed.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN/PETER GABRIEL/STING/TRACY CHAPMAN/YOUSSEU N'DOUE: Start of an unprecedented six-week world package tour on behalf of Amnesty International.

Odeon Haymarket, Middlesex (01-932 1234). Fri.

DANCE

DANGER, WOMEN AT WORK: A season by independent women dance makers, two to four different items each night.

Purcell Room, Southbank, London, SE1 (01-928 3191). Tues to Sept 4.

MOSCOW CLASSICAL BALLET: Final performances today of their *Swan Lake* tour.

Bristol Hippodrome (021 622 7486).

JAZZ

OUTSIDE IN: A replacement for the now-defunct Bracken Festival, the weekend event includes sets by Power Tools, Cecil Taylor/Tony Oxley and Tim Berne.

The Hawth Centre, Crawley (0293 553638) Fri-Sun.

MARIAN MONTGOMERY: Second week of her residency, in the company of Richard Rodney Bennett.

Pizza On The Park, London SW1 (01-225 5550) Mon-Sat.

FILMS

THE SICILIAN (15): Michael Cimino's latest extravaganza — an epic account of the post-war outlaw leader Salvatore Giuliano, with an odd bunch of international players (Christopher Lambert as Giuliano, Joss Ackland as a Mafia chieftain). Odeon Haymarket (01-939 7697), from Fri.

STICKY FINGERS (15): Bubbly New York comedy, with Helen Slater and Melanie Lynskey as unemployed musicians left in charge of a million dollars. A bright debut by director Catlin Adams. Cannon Picture Palace (01-930 0631), from Fri.

GERMAN ROMANTIC DRAWINGS: 40 drawings from Oxford's Ashmolean Museum, including items by Caspar David Friedrich and Peter Cornelius.

Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester (061 273 4665). From Today.

SIR SYDNEY NOLAN: A major retrospective of works since 1937 by the most senior Australian painter.

Royal West of England Academy, Bristol (0272 735129). From Mon.

CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS' BOOS: Alternatives to painting and sculpture by the likes of Tom Phillips and Hamish Fulton. Arncliffe, Bristol (0272 299191). From Today.

FROM THE SHOGUN'S DOMAINS: A selection of Japanese decorative arts between 1600 and 1900. Stafford Art Gallery (0785 57303). From Today.

Theatre: Tony Patrick; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock: David Sinclair; Jazz: Clive Davis; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: David Lee.

A recipe with successful ingredients

Take the flat moody landscape of Suffolk, a hundred numbers, three characters called Cissie Colpitts, sheep, fireworks, and corpses galore. Weave them together: stir in some sturdy British actors. Soak the mixture with elegant dialogue and painterly photography. Place in oven, regularly baste with Michael Nyman music, and out pops *Drowning by Numbers* — the latest creation of Peter Greenaway. British cinema's King of Eccentricity.

The recipe is partly tried and true. The technicians are, certainly, the Dutch producers and art directors worked on *A Zed and Two Nothings*, as did cameraman Sacha Vierny, while the links with Michael Nyman and editor John Wilson stretch back to the Seventies.

But there are interesting new ingredients. The quality of the acting, for instance. Greenaway's early experimental films had nothing to do with actors; verbal information was relayed by commentaries spoken in insistent tones. Character and dialogue entered Greenaway's world in 1982 with *The Draughtsman's Contract*, though it took until last year's *The Belly of an Architect* for an actor (Brian Dennehy) to seem properly human and stand out from the props.

No one who casts Joan



Little women: the three Cissie Colpitts played by Joely Richardson, Juliet Stevenson and Joan Plowright

Plowright can expect her to blend quietly into a visual composition. She plays the oldest of the Cissie Colpitts trio — a strong-willed woman who kicks off the comic proceedings by drowning her husband. Plowright may have been a little uncertain about the film's ultimate meaning ("I suppose it's to do with women opting out of unsatisfactory marriages..."), though she handles her lines with her inimitable aplomb.

The thread of plot is simple

enough to make *Drowning by Numbers* Greenaway's most accessible film to date. But the corner's son Smut (Jason Edwards) supplies bizarre complications by running amok amassing animal corpses. To add to the fun, numbers from one to a hundred are depicted (or spoken) somewhere within the scenes.

Greenaway speaks of his film as "an opportunity to play games in an idyllic English landscape... a film about the conspiracy, the

solidarity — even the 'conspiracy' of women". Ultimately, though, *Drowning by Numbers* is only "about" the cinematic quirks and obsessions of Greenaway himself.

Geoff Brown

Drowning by Numbers (18) opens in London on September 2 at the Lumiere (01-535 0691) and Gate Notting Hill (01-221 0220).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page
SATURDAY

BBC1 Wales: 6.15pm-6.30pm Sports News; 6.30pm-6.45pm Sports News; 6.45pm-7.00pm Sports News; 7.00pm-7.15pm Sports News; 7.15pm-7.30pm Sports News; 7.30pm-7.45pm Sports News; 7.45pm-8.00pm Sports News; 8.00pm-8.15pm Sports News; 8.15pm-8.30pm Sports News; 8.30pm-8.45pm Sports News; 8.45pm-9.00pm Sports News; 9.00pm-9.15pm Sports News; 9.15pm-9.30pm Sports News; 9.30pm-9.45pm Sports News; 9.45pm-10.00pm Sports News; 10.00pm-10.15pm Sports News; 10.15pm-10.30pm Sports News; 10.30pm-10.45pm Sports News; 10.45pm-11.00pm Sports News; 11.00pm-11.15pm Sports News; 11.15pm-11.30pm Sports News; 11.30pm-11.45pm Sports News; 11.45pm-12.00pm Sports News.

ANGlia As London except 1.00pm Farming Outlook; 1.30pm News; 1.55pm News; 2.00pm News; 2.15pm News; 2.30pm News; 2.45pm News; 2.55pm News; 3.00pm News; 3.15pm News; 3.30pm News; 3.45pm News; 3.55pm News; 4.00pm News; 4.15pm News; 4.30pm News; 4.45pm News; 4.55pm News; 5.00pm News; 5.15pm News; 5.30pm News; 5.45pm News; 5.55pm News; 6.00pm News; 6.15pm News; 6.30pm News; 6.45pm News; 6.55pm News; 7.00pm News; 7.15pm News; 7.30pm News; 7.45pm News; 7.55pm News; 8.00pm News; 8.15pm News; 8.30pm News; 8.45pm News; 8.55pm News; 9.00pm News; 9.15pm News; 9.30pm News; 9.45pm News; 9.55pm News; 10.00pm News; 10.15pm News; 10.30pm News; 10.45pm News; 10.55pm News; 11.00pm News; 11.15pm News; 11.30pm News; 11.45pm News; 11.55pm News; 12.00pm News.

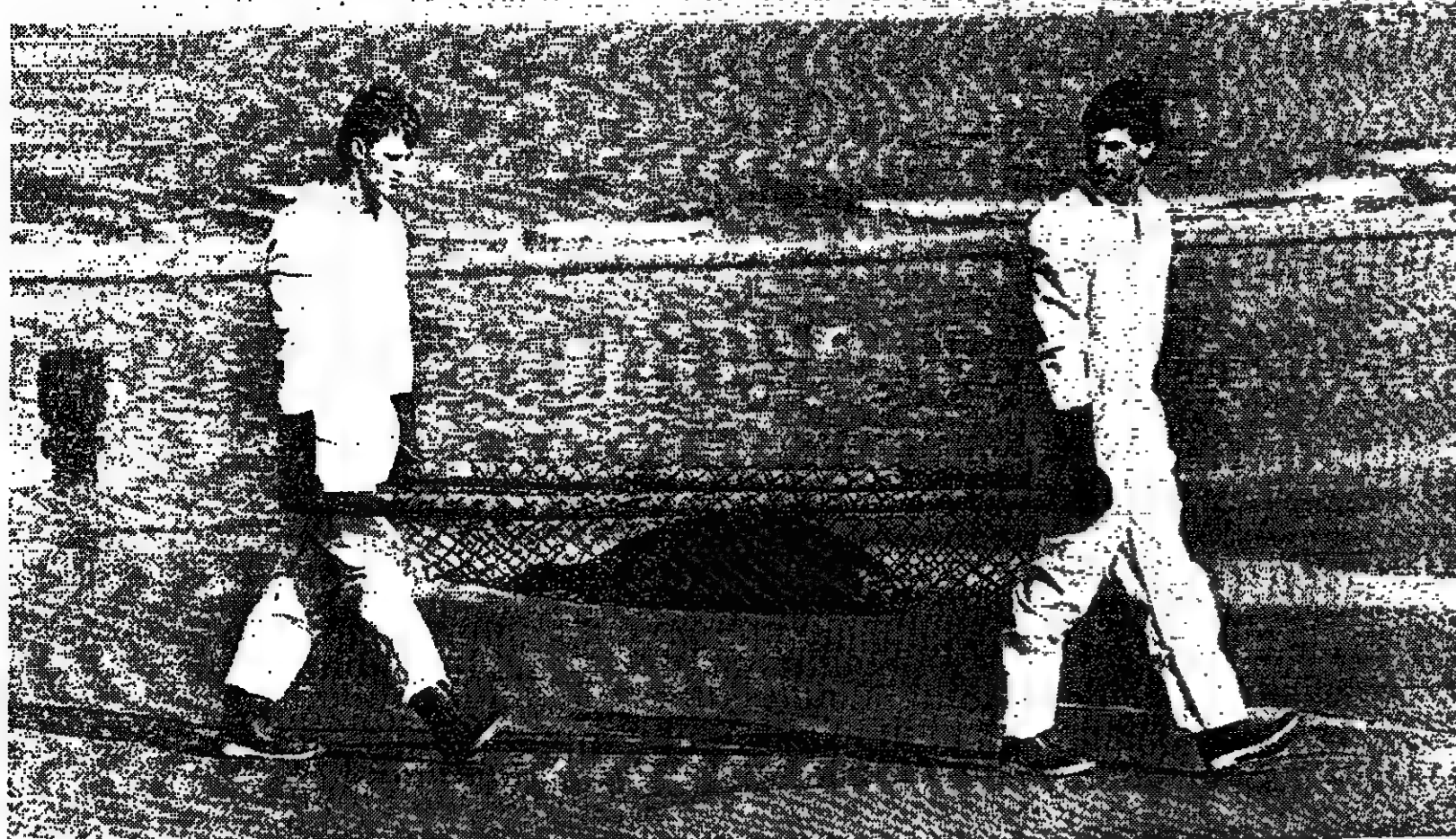
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GRAMPian As London except

The twice daily burials at the seals' graveyard



Scientists in battle to find a vaccine

Continued from page 1

causing the epidemic through the pollution of North Sea waters through industrial and chemical waste.

Up to 4,000 seals have died in recent months and more are being washed up on the British coastline every day.

More than 40 dead and dying seals have been found on the north Norfolk coast, and yesterday others were discovered near Grimsby, Humberside.

Mr Peter Page, environmental health manager for

North Norfolk District Council, said: "The biggest concentration has been at Blakeney Harbour where there is a seal colony. Blakeney Point has a seal colony of about 700 run by the National Trust and they have got a big problem."

"The seals are being washed ashore either dead or in the last stages of life and while we have been advised that there is no danger to humans, we are asking people not to approach."

"Our tourist beaches are regularly cleaned, but with the

Bank Holiday coming up we are getting our beach-cleaners in to remove seals when they are found."

Dr Osterhaus is expected to call a news conference next Thursday to discuss the findings. A crucial issue which he will be asked to clarify is whether other marine species, such as porpoises and whales, are at risk of the disease.

However, it seems unlikely that the infection can be carried on the food chain.

The Sea Mammal Research Unit in Cambridge has been

working closely with the Dutch researchers and has sent them serum samples from diseased seals in Britain.

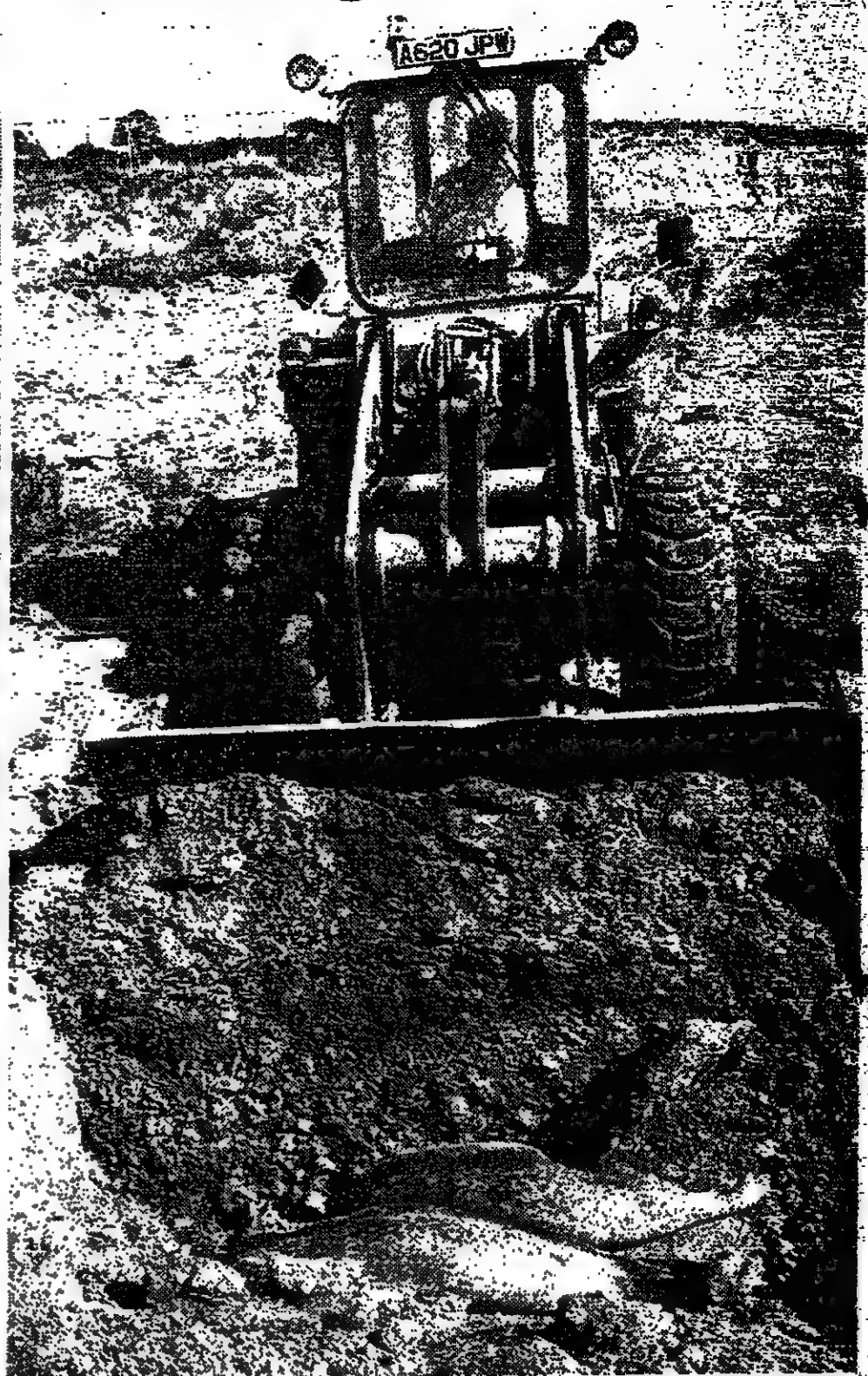
The Dutch team has confirmed that all the animals have been infected by the same source.

A spokeswoman at the Cambridge unit would not comment on reports that Dr Osterhaus and colleagues had made an important research breakthrough. "We have been told nothing about it," she said.

Twice a day over the bank holiday weekend patrols from Norfolk County Council are clearing the beaches of dead seals after the high tide and taking them for burial to a council tip at Docking, near Hamstanton (above and right).

By last night 200 carcasses had been recovered. The worst affected place was at Blakeney Point owned by the National Trust.

A council spokesman said: "There is no danger because they will be buried very deep in the tip. It's a pretty horrible job for the men but we will police every tide. We are anticipating we could recover hundreds of bodies."



BA may buy new Concorde

Continued from page 1

three hours and is also constantly booked for charter flights. British Airways says the aircraft makes a healthy operating profit.

Aerospatiale believes that new technology, allowing the aircraft weight to be greatly reduced, a new variable cycle engine and increased demand for transatlantic travel has opened the way for a Concorde Mark 2 to be developed.

The wing has been re-designed to improve performance at sub-sonic speeds and the engines realigned to reduce noise.

Aerospatiale is convinced the new aircraft could be in service by the end of the century and is meanwhile developing plans for a hyper-

sonic aircraft to be called the AGV (avion à grande vitesse) to replace FAST 15 years later.

Because of the huge sums involved in developing such an aircraft, however, it is looking for partners in Japan and the United States where similar studies are under way.

Britain, which produced Concorde jointly with the French, has so far shown little interest in entering into any partnership in producing Concorde Mark 2. But if main airlines such as British Airways and others around the rapidly expanding Pacific rim decide to buy a successor to Concorde, Britain may want to become involved.

British Aerospace, who helped to design and build the Concorde, said: "We are not actively engaged in the design

for a Concorde Mark 2 but we are keeping abreast of the technology."

"The costs involved, even of building a successor to the existing Concorde, would be enormous and we have instead been concentrating on the Hotel spaceplane."

"We still do have 30 or so people working in the design office of Concorde, however, who are keeping up with all the developments so that if it eventually comes to fruition we would not be too far behind."

The French, however, are convinced of the market for a development of the existing Concorde which need not be as expensive as the massive costs of designing and building a completely new super-sonic form of transport.

Threat to Christ film

Continued from page 1

Jesus are failures. But some fail more badly than others."

Mr John Gummer, a member of the General Synod, said he was concerned that publicity would merely encourage people to go and see it.

The Roman Catholic church "regarded" "dignified abstention".

Mr Nicholas Coote, assistant general secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said: "It is a grave lapse of taste and monumental lapse in theology."

Mr James Ferman, secretary of the British Board of Film Classification, said the board's decision was unanimous.

Tight border security for extradition

Continued from page 1

court of competent jurisdiction.

Mr Malocco had asked for a delay in the extradition so that the Irish justice minister could consider further legal points.

A final attempt to delay the extradition was made by Mrs Bernadette McAleise, who asked the court to carry out an inquiry into Russell's detention which she claimed was unlawful. The judge declined.

Russell, aged 30, of Belfast is due to end a three-year term in the republic for attempting to escape from the top security Portlaoise prison. In 1983, he escaped from the Maze prison, where he was serving 20 years for attempted murder.

At the Irish border in Ulster last night, hundreds of troops and police began diverting Dublin-bound vehicles at Newry. In the south, the Irish garda sealed the road to northbound traffic at Dundalk, 13 miles away. The RUC said the closures would last "until further notice."

Earlier, an IRA booby trap bomb attached to the underside of a car belonging to a member of the security forces was defused by Army bomb disposal officers in Sion Mills, less than 20 miles from where the eight Light Infantry soldiers died in a big bomb explosion last week.

The RUC who would not say whether the man was a police officer or a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment. He found the device when he checked his car as he left for work early yesterday.

More than 150 homes in Sion Mills, on the other side of Omagh on the same A5 road where the soldiers died, were evacuated while the tilt-switch bomb, made from Semtex plastic explosive and containing shrapnel, was defused.

The planting of the bomb was being seen as an act of defiance by the IRA's East Tyrone brigade, believed to be responsible for last weekend's bombing, after the arrests of eight men earlier this week. Last night, all eight were still being questioned by police.

It emerged yesterday that the Foreign Office had asked the Czechoslovakian government a series of detailed technical questions about the manufacture and export of Semtex in an attempt to stop the Provisional IRA from acquir-

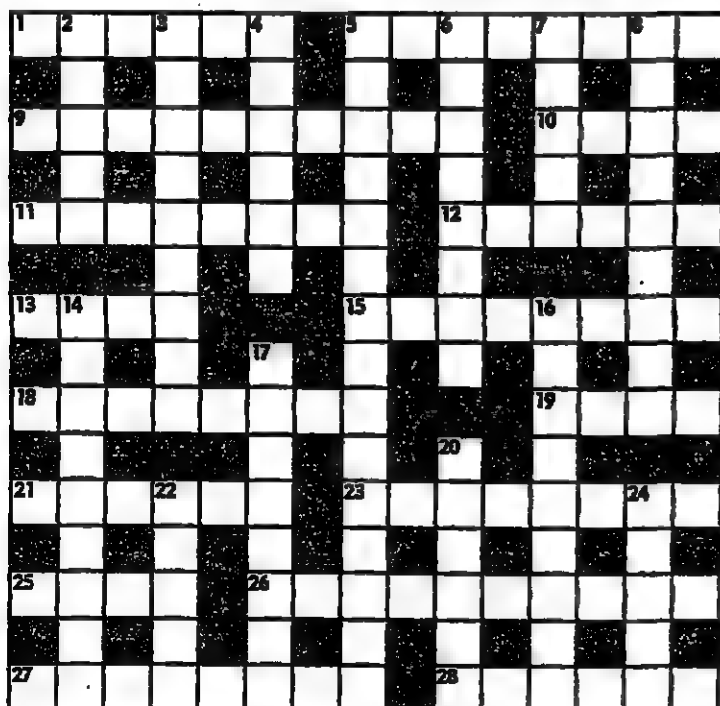
ring more of the sophisticated bomb-making material.

Security sources in Belfast believe that the IRA has been given up to five tons of the explosive in an agreement with Colonel Gaddafi.

The Czech government has promised to reply to questions posed by the Foreign Office through the British Embassy in Prague. The Czech authorities have already given a "categorical" assurance that they had never knowingly sold the explosives to anybody with terrorist connections.

The security forces in Northern Ireland are hoping the Czechs will agree to Foreign Office requests to "finger-print" the Semtex to help them find explosives caches. Semtex is odourless and difficult to detect.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,759

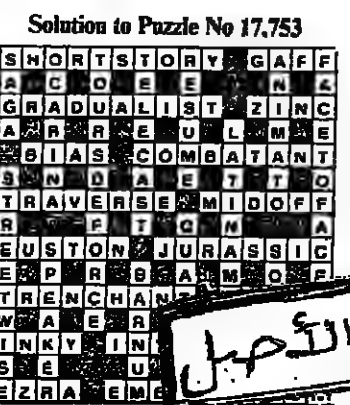


ACROSS

- 1 Took advantage of America in a plot (6)
- 5 Make 10% cut in china on first day of month (8)
- 9 Notes cathedral has no West end, though several facades (10)
- 10 Decoration on front of kimono in Japan (4)
- 11 A newspaper boy's endless social activity (5-3)
- 12 Cherished tender daughter (6)
- 13 Removed by love game (4)
- 15 So 28 could be abroad (8)
- 18 My Macon's split in the garden (8)
- 19 Heat extra well to make a tart (4)
- 21 Allow to escape the cross-Channel swell (3,3)
- 23 Order instructing girls to rewrite rules in University? (8)
- 25 Complaint in cattle (4)
- 26 Stentor's megaphone? (4,6)
- 27 Milk drink hails baby left abandoned in storm (8)
- 28 Opposed to State directions (6)

DOWN

- 2 Sort of warning doctor should respond to (6)
- 3 Rising philosopher criticises premises sometimes used (5,4)
- 4 Elegant deck on top of yacht (6)
- 5 Where "the very houses seem asleep" too in outer London? (9,6)
- 6 Vessel is perforated - leaks like a sieve (8)
- 7 Old poet used up a lot of paper about the king (5)
- 8 Hazlitt's attempts at informal conversation (5-4)
- 14 A sly adversary, the Devil? (4-5)
- 16 On the way to the summit, but not out of the woods yet (9)
- 17 It may have links with a game - Association? (4-4)
- 20 Like the unfinished degree, this involves a lack of inspiration (6)
- 22 River's rubbish (5)
- 24 The requirements are lax, it is said (5)



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- OCCAMY**
a. Aromatic distillery
b. Multiple division
c. Golden and silvery alloy
- QUADRIRIOTAI**
a. Perambulating the quadrangle
b. Four-wheeled
c. Relating to quarter days
- VENTRIPOTENT**
a. Ruling the winds
b. Fat
c. Having the keys; a custodian
- DUMFUSION**
a. Imbecility
b. A convulsed tissue
c. A type of welding

Answers on page 20, column 1

SHEAFFER

A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold inlaid nib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: S Clayton, East Dulwich Grove, London; E Rumble, Goldings Lane, Mannings Heath, Horsham, Sussex; D Benham, Almond Grove, Woodland Park, Scarborough, N Yorks; E Bond, Harewood Road, Holymoorside, Chesterfield, Derbyshire; B Cole, Myddelton Square, London.

Name _____
Address _____

Johnnie Prize and Concise crosswords, page 19

WEATHER

South-east England humid and mostly dry at first with rain spreading from north-west during the day. Some heavy rain in central Britain and fog on hills. Afternoon sun in northern England and south-east Scotland. Cooler in north. Weekend outlook: sun and showers. Cool and windy in north.

ABROAD

| City | Temp | Wind | Cloud |
|---------------|-------|------|-------|
| Algeria | 25/27 | SE | 100 |
| Alexandria | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Athens | 21/23 | SE | 100 |
| Bombay | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Buenos Aires | 21/23 | SE | 100 |
| Calcutta | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Cairo | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Colon | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Hong Kong | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| London | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Lyons | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Madrid | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Moscow | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| New York | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Paris | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Rangoon | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| San Francisco | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Singapore | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Tokyo | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Yokohama | 28/30 | SE | 100 |

AROUND BRITAIN

| City | Temp | Wind | Cloud |
|---------------|-------|------|-------|
| Cardiff | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Edinburgh | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| London | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Manchester | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Newcastle | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Nottingham | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Sheffield | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Southampton | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Wolverhampton | 28/30 | SE | 100 |
| Wrexham | 28/30 | SE | 100 |

HIGH TIDES

| Location | Time | Height |
|---------------|------|--------|
| London Bridge | 2:18 | 7.1 |
| Aberdeen | 2:27 | 7.1 |
| Amsterdam | 2:36 | 7.1 |
| Belfast | 2:45 | 7.1 |
| Bombay | 2:54 | 7.1 |
| Buenos Aires | 3:03 | 7.1 |
| Calcutta | 3:12 | 7.1 |
| Cairo | 3:21 | 7.1 |
| Colon | 3:30 | 7.1 |
| Hong Kong | 3:39 | 7.1 |
| London | 3:48 | 7.1 |
| Lyons | 3:57 | 7.1 |
| Madrid | 4:06 | 7.1 |
| Moscow | 4:15 | 7.1 |
| New York | 4:24 | 7.1 |
| Paris | 4:33 | 7.1 |
| Rangoon | 4:42 | 7.1 |
| Singapore | 4:51 | 7.1 |
| Tokyo | 5:00 | 7.1 |
| Yokohama | 5:09 | 7.1 |

Times are BST

Full Moon 11:58am

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AM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY
London 8.28 pm to 5.57 am
Bristol 8.37 pm to 5.47 am
Edinburgh 8.50 pm to 5.40 am
Manchester 8.40 pm to 5.41 am
Penzance 8.47 pm to 5.01 am

TOMORROW
London 8.28 pm to 5.57 am
Bristol 8.37 pm to 5.47 am
Edinburgh 8.50 pm to 5.40 am
Manchester 8.40 pm to 5.41 am
Penzance 8.47 pm to 5.01 am

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 8pm, 19C (65F); min 8pm to 5am, 12C (54F). Humidity: 6pm, 80 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 1010.5 (1400 milibar-29.53in.)

These are Thursday's figures

Information supplied by Met Office

Information supplied by Met Office

Information supplied by Met Office

Information supplied by Met Office

Information supplied by Met Office

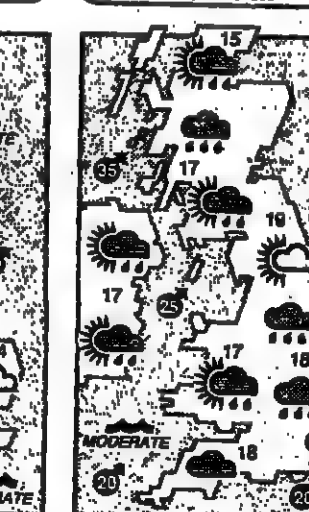
Information supplied by Met Office

Information supplied by Met Office

Information supplied by Met Office

Information supplied by Met Office

PM



HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Folkestone, Kent, 19C (65F). Lowest day temp: Buxton, Derbyshire, 12C (54F). Highest night temp: Buxton, Derbyshire, 12C (54F). Lowest night temp: Buxton, Derbyshire, 12C (54F).

Friday: Highest day temp: Folkestone, Kent, 19C (65F). Lowest day temp: Buxton, Derbyshire, 12C (54F). Highest night temp: Buxton, Derbyshire, 12C (54F). Lowest night temp: Buxton, Derbyshire, 12C (54F).

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o on holiday

Uneasy calm as bears go on holiday

Close, London SE19DH.

s Bank plc

Grindlays Bank plc
Member ANZ Group

Head Office:
Minerva House, Montague Close, London SE19DH.

holiday

Rosebush, after the day's 32p drop, again led the way down in properties with a fresh fall of 7p to 68p, while MEPC gave up 8p to 51p and Land Securities, at 31p, cheapened 4p to 27p. Taking the view that most activities as their disposal, higher interest and mortgage rates, stocks in the lower pressure.

Pleasura lost 13p to 21p as dealers continued to press doubts as to whether the Leisure Group's bid for the company will succeed. Brent Walker Leisure by 10p to 37p and Leisure by 12p to 35p.

However, a few firms' shares did appear to be gloom. Betula, the engineering and civil engineering group, which has been hit by a sharp fall in its share price, was down 10p to 15p. The group's shares were down 10p to 15p. The group's shares were down 10p to 15p.

NEW YORK gains 8 points early trading

Generally, the market was steady, with a slight rise in the early trading. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 8 points to 2,464.83.

Compliance struggles to prop up Chinese Walls

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Compliance is no longer a joke in the City. Time was when firms shunted their most useful senior partners into the compliance office. But, after repeated City scandals, compliance's role is being taken far more seriously.

A recruitment agency survey published this week showed that the salaries of compliance officers — the people responsible for ensuring that staff do not commit misdemeanours such as insider trading — are rising more than 40 per cent.

High-powered lawyers are in demand by City firms to maintain the Chinese Walls that keep insider dealing in check.

Yet the most recent scandals have shown how hard it is for even the most experienced law enforcers to keep the baser instincts of some City employees under control.

Chinese Walls — blocking inside information flowing from one part of a business to another — which should not know about it — are at the centre of the problem.

Physical segregation of staff is the most visible and common form of Chinese Wall.

Many firms house their corporate finance staff and

investment management operations in different buildings. Others have security systems that would not let out of place in high-security prisons.

A visitor to Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, for example, is likely to be conducted through numerous electronically locking doors, to which only authorized members of staff have the key code or card.

The point of segregation, said Mr George Law, chief compliance officer at Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, is primarily to prevent employees accidentally over-hearing conversations or seeing documents they should not hear or see.

But even within departments this causes almost insuperable problems.

Miss Kathy Rowlands, the employee who resigned from Samuel Montagu over the Pleasura insider dealing scandal, was a member of the merchant bank's corporate finance department.

But she was involved in a different area of business and should not have known about the deal.

The degree of segregation, though, varies from company

to company. All firms maintain a rigid separation of their corporate finance and investment management operations.

Interestingly, no insider dealing cases have come to light involving information flowing between these two areas of business within the same firm.

Maintaining adequate segregation in securities departments, however, is far more complex.

At Morgan Grenfell and many other houses, the share analysts sit on a different floor from the dealers. At some firms, the analysts and traders sit more or less side by side.

The danger here is that analysts sometimes have to pry to particular corporate finance information which the dealer should not know about.

However great the physical separation, employees can always talk by telephone. This is almost impossible to monitor.

Many City firms now record all calls made through their switchboards.

The main aim is to provide a record of all deals in case any are disputed later, but it can also be used to police employees.

No firms, however, record

the internal calls of one employee to another.

This makes a nonsense of the principal of physical segregation if employees are determined to pass on inside information to their colleagues.

Chinese Walls also require defined limits. There have to be a number of senior staff who are able to see over the walls, otherwise a firm operating a range of different services will lack co-ordination.

Obviously, the chief executive needs to be above the walls, as do heads of department. But on specific deals there will almost certainly have to be others allowed to see over the wall.

A junior analyst, for example, might have to be drafted in to help the corporate finance department price a share issue for a company. For that deal, he becomes the possessor of inside information.

Few, if any, City firms can therefore afford to have hard and fast rules about who is allowed access to inside information in all circumstances.

This only adds to the compliance officers' almost impossible task.

Opec to try again on prices

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Dr Subroto, general secretary of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the former Indonesian oil minister, will spend the coming week attempting to send the world oil price upwards.

He will visit the Arab Gulf oil-producing countries in an attempt to persuade them that they must adhere strictly to Opec's price and production level.

At the moment, prices are hovering around the \$15 a barrel mark for high quality crudes in light trading.

Britain's North Sea Brent is being priced at just under \$15 for October delivery, West Texas Intermediate at around \$15.50 and Dubai crude at \$13.

Prices are remaining low because of continuing oversupply.

There are also fears that Iraq and Iran will both soon start stepping up production.

During the week, Dr Subroto — who was the most effective president of the cartel in the early 1980s — will attempt to persuade them both that there is little point in increasing output while prices are low.

He will also attempt to get those Arab Gulf states who are over-producing — notably the United Arab Emirates — to cut back production until the prices rise.

He will have the backing of the latest statistics and forecasts from the International Energy Agency in Paris.

Mr George Lumsden, the agency's director of oil markets, said yesterday that the western industrialized world expects little change in the output from both Iran and Iraq until 1990.

He said: "The market is already pretty fully supplied."

"It is unlikely that new Iraqi and Iranian production could come on stream before 1990, in spite of the Gulf ceasefire."

"By 1990, new capacity will be in place, but for now and the immediate future I tend to say that what you see is what you get."

"The world situation in 1989, and probably for a few years beyond, is likely to be characterized by increasing energy demand and abundant supplies of all energy sources."

"Beyond then, growing demand and environmental considerations could well begin to produce constraints."

"The result will be less diversity and upward pressure on prices."

Share prices tune in to the 12% message

Share prices shakily survived the week of the booming money and retail sales figures. The week of the £2 billion trade deficit was a different story. This time, there was no recovery from the shocks. The FT-SE 100 share index dropped by almost 4 per cent.

A week ago, the debate was poised between the damaging rising trend of interest rates and the evidently sound value offered by shares on historically modest ratings with fast-rising dividends. But Thursday's debacle has changed the share price balance just as it decided the economic debate.

High interest rates are now seen, even by the Chancellor, as semi-permanent. That is a new factor — whether base rates have to rise further to 14 per cent or, less likely, remain at 12 per cent for many months.

Little attention was paid to the gilt-edged market in the wake of the trade figures. Prices nonetheless fell by a point. Stephen Lewis, of Phillips & Drew, thinks that as the leading investment managers return to their desks and make their dispositions for the autumn, they will be looking for 10 per cent yields on long-dated gilt-edged stocks, instead of today's 9.5 per cent. Given a basic inflation rate of 5 per cent rising to 6 per cent, that is surely right.

That clearly makes average dividend yields of 4.4 per cent on shares less attractive. The position is not quite as bad as that because dividends are rising so sharply. If the 100 share index settled at 1700, for instance, yields would probably average 5.25 per cent in a year's time.

That is right in the middle of the 4 to 6.5 per cent range identified by a new study by Peter and Jeffrey Thompson of BZW as the norm, through bull and bear

markets, dating back 65 years. The break from the spring recovery surely does now identify this as a bear market, though not one headed for a crash.

That is where this week's events mark the sharpest break. It is not simply that interest rates have gone up. Policy is changing in order to reduce the growth rate in Britain. The message of the worsening balance of payments was that an anti-inflationary policy must bring growth down to the sustainable long-term level (still about 3 per cent) and probably to that of our nearest European competitors, which is no more than 2.5 per cent.

Investors have to assume that this still-scarcely spoken policy works or, if it does not, that further policy moves will be made no later than the next Budget to make sure it does. That is going to hit companies that rely on the level of home demand for their earnings growth: the stores, the leisure companies, housebuilders and consumer goods manufacturers. Indeed, it will hit a large sector of the market.

By the time this starts hitting profits, shares at near current levels would be selling at an average 10 to 11 times earnings. But thereafter, earnings growth may slow sharply, with dividend growth tailing off at a much slower rate.

Even if shares sag, there will, however, be plenty of good long-term value. Profits earned abroad probably account for half the income of alpha stocks. Low share prices in London will also attract bidders from home and abroad, so there should be plenty of special situations. The bidders and investment managers will be looking for the same thing: solid earnings growth, good yields and the potential for continuing dividend rises.

No immoral majority

The rash of new cases of City malpractice involving misuse of inside information has certainly enhanced the status of the compliance officer, as a survey on this page shows. But it has only focused attention on an enduring dilemma: people whose job is to make money are likely to be very interested in doing the same thing on their own account.

Bad apples, who do not mind how they do it, will never be eradicated. The vital thing is to prevent a general air of sleazy practice that draws in ordinary, honest, but occasionally weak-minded people.

Physical and technical measures taken to erect Chinese Walls of silence, or to monitor relations with customers, may help. So does fear of being caught, through the vigilance of the Stock Exchange or worsted competitors. But

the most vital factor is the business practice of the firm itself.

Relations between corporate finance and investment management departments have given little trouble — in part, no doubt, because that is an old issue and plenty of experience in new and better practices has built up over the years. In part, however, it is surely because investment managers are still not subjected to quite the same day-to-day pressures as members of the new-style securities houses.

That will not go away. But senior executives need to protect the image of their company by looking beyond the bottom line to see how it was reached. The business morality of the firm colours the personal financial morals of employees. If competition makes business morality an unaffordable luxury, new generations of employees will take the hint.

£16m call to fund Jivraj purchases

By Martin Waller

LeisureTime International, run by the Jivraj family, is expanding with the \$14.56 million (£8.56 million) purchase of an hotel next to Disney World in Florida and the £1.93 million acquisition of two nursing homes.

The deals are being funded by a £16.5 million rights issue on a five-for-four basis, which will also wipe out existing debts.

The group is buying the Ramada Maingate at Kissimmee, Florida, a four-star hotel with 393 rooms, which will continue to be run under a franchise from Ramada Inns, the third largest hotel group in the world.

At the same time, the group has bought two nursing homes, in Norfolk and Louth, Lincolnshire, from Hestair.

The family plans eventually to inject its private hotels interests around the world — which include two in Florida close to the Maingate — into the group, said Mr Nick Jivraj, the chief executive.

However, this cannot happen until after the group's figures for the current year to end-October are unveiled early next year, because of pressure from the Stock Exchange, which is concerned that LeisureTime does not grow too fast.

The rights issue is priced at 75p. LeisureTime's shares held steady at 83p.

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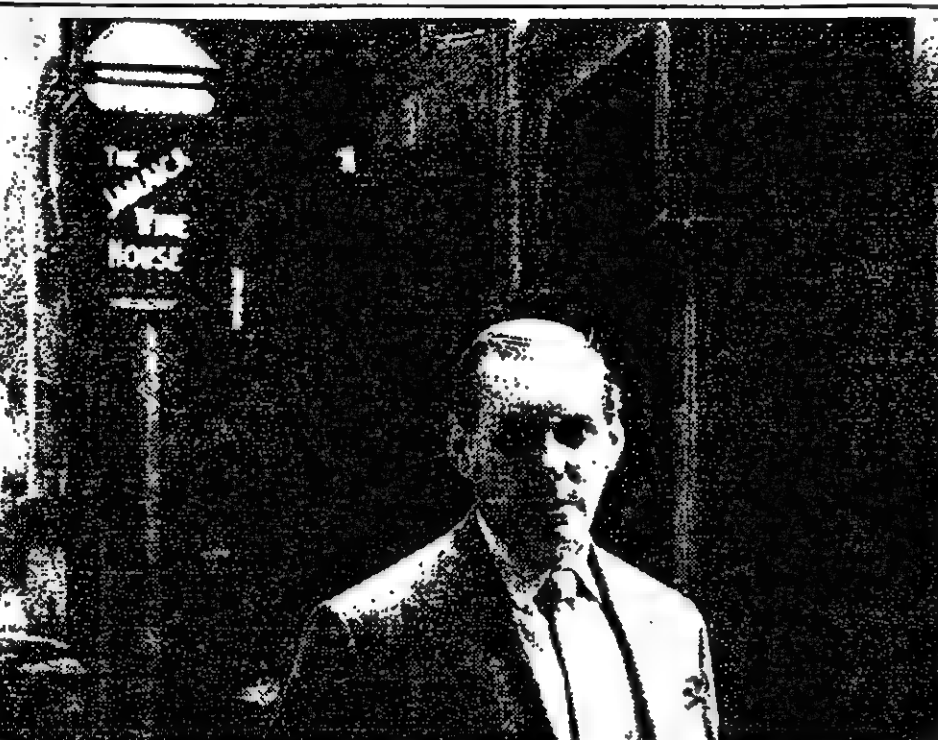
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Leisure buy: Adam Page, Midsummer's chairman, in the City (Photograph: James Morgan)

Midsummer buys Maygay

By Wolfgang Mitchenan

Midsummer Leisure, the expanding pool table to discotheque group, yesterday announced the acquisition of Maygay Group, which manufactures and rents out fruit machines, for almost £7.5 million.

Maygay will be integrated into Midsummer's manufacturing division and will operate alongside Riley, the snooker club operator and snooker table manufacturer, acquired last year for £16.4 million.

Mr Adam Page, Mid-

summer's chairman, said: "We regard the Maygay group as one of our most significant acquisitions to date."

Maygay, formed in 1960 by Mr Peter Howell, achieved £478,000 pre-tax profits for the year to September 1987. Net assets were just under £600,000.

It claims to have about 10 per cent of the British amusement machine market.

Midsummer will pay an initial £3.3 million, with the balance depending on profits.

The Maygay purchase follows several other deals in the past year, including the ac-

quisitions of Riley, Snooker Sports and Bruce's Brewery.

Last month, Midsummer bought nine independent London public houses for £6.5 million, bringing its total number of pubs to 40 in London and 150 in Britain.

The company hopes to increase its foothold in the pub and brewing business, possibly next year after a report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the concentration in the brewing industry — due out in January — is published. It may force some larger breweries to give up their pubs.

Otis wins £20m lift order

By Colin Narbrough

Otis Elevator, the lift-maker, has won an order worth about £20 million to supply 20 lifts, including Britain's fastest model, for the Canary Wharf development in London Docklands.

The order, believed to be the biggest ever awarded in Europe, is for two subcontractors on Canary Wharf — Ellis Don/Sir Robert McAlpine and Bovis Construction. Otis will supply and

install 36 lifts for the 800 ft Tower building, centre-piece of the scheme, which Ellis is putting up, and 20 for the neighbouring FC2 building under construction by Bovis. The complex is being developed by Olympia & York, the Canadian property group.

Otis Elevator is wholly owned by Otis Corporation of the US, part of United Technologies Corporation.

The Canary Wharf contract will be managed by a newly

established division within Otis, specializing in leading products.

The lifts will travel at a rate of 1,200 ft a minute, making them the fastest ever installed in Britain.

Mr Jack Leingang, chief executive of Otis Elevator, said: "We have been planning for this for the last two years, by reorganizing and expanding our production quality and setting up our major products division."

Buyout values Wiltshire at £9m

By Rosemary Unsworth

John E Wiltshire Group, one of Britain's largest private construction companies, is to be bought by its management in a deal valuing it at £9 million.

The management team, headed by Mr John Watts, chief executive, beat two foreign trade buyers and a British bidder.

Three venture capital firms, Baronsmead, ECI and Can-

dover, invested a total of £3 million, giving management 40 per cent of the equity. Institutional investors will hold 35 per cent and the Wiltshire family the remaining 25 per cent.

Mr Michael Davis, a former director of Imperial Group and a non-executive director of British Airways, Littlewoods and Blue Arrow, becomes the new chairman.

From a loss last year there is

every indication that profits of more than £1 million will be achieved this year, said Mr Ian Salkeld of ECI.

The intention is to shift emphasis from growth in turnover to profit, and develop the business in Europe. The group is withdrawing from the US market.

"We may make some small acquisitions and will probably seek a flotation in the longer term," Mr Watts said.

Swire Pacific interims soar 59%

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

Swire Pacific yesterday revealed after-tax profits 59 per cent higher at HK\$1,747.8 million (£131 million) for the six months ended June. The profits were boosted by an extraordinary item of HK\$364.2 million, representing a gain from the disposal of a dockyard site by Hong Kong United Dockyards, Swire's 50 per cent-owned associate.

The Hong Kong company, which is controlled from London by the private firm John Swire and Sons through a 27 per cent stake, owns 50.1 per cent of the crown colony's flag carrier, Cathay Pacific. It also holds 37.6 per cent of Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company, which services planes at Kai Tak airport.

This week Cathay Pacific announced net interim profits of HK\$1.02 billion, 23.2 per cent higher than last time, and HAECO revealed interim profits 37 per cent higher at HK\$116.3 million.

Mr David Gledhill, chairman, said: "Prospects for the second half of the year are good with the Cathay Pacific Airways fleet increasing by a further three aircraft to 30 and with continued heavy demand for aircraft maintenance work."

He said the property division benefited from the completion of several projects, and that Swire's trading division recorded sharply higher figures.

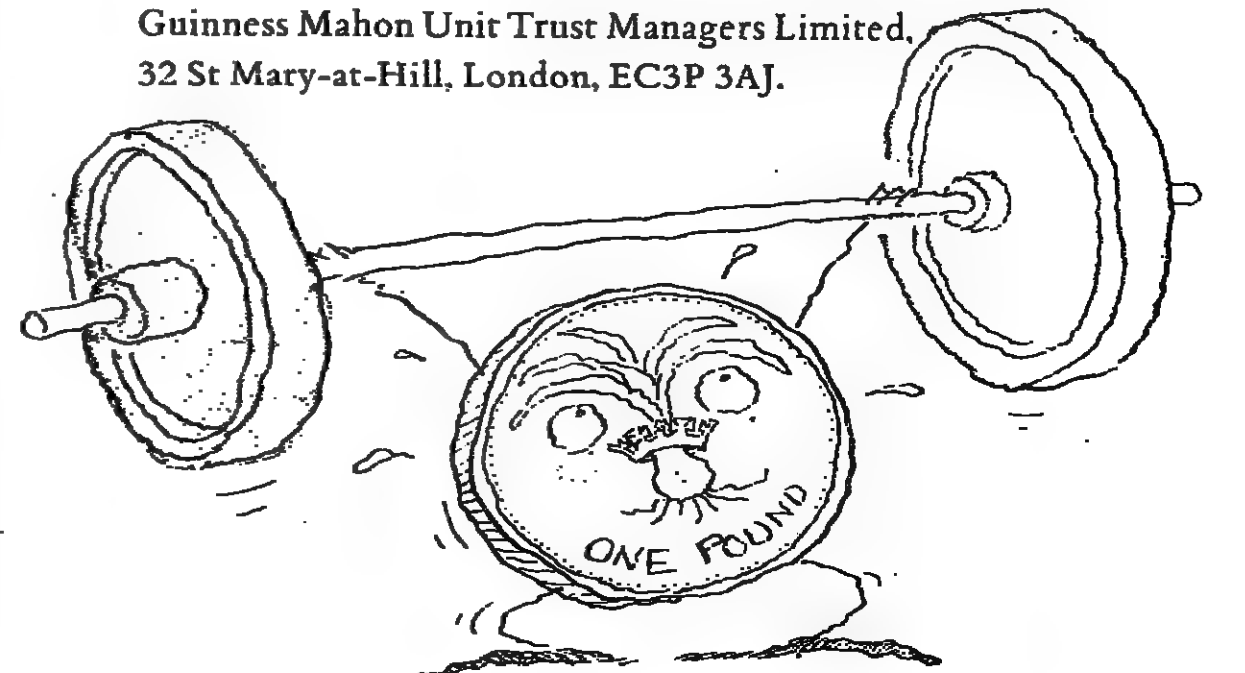
The group's computer component businesses had a tougher time because of escalating costs and a chronic shortage of skilled labour in Hong Kong.

An interim dividend of 23 cents is

being paid on each A share, compared with 19 cents last year, and the B shares will receive 4.6 cents (3.8 cents) each.

Mr Gledhill said prospects for the full year were good and he expected the final dividends to be at least double the interims. "Operating conditions for Cathay Pacific Airways remain stable and in the absence of any significant adverse changes another good year is in prospect," he said. "The property division can expect a satisfactory outcome to the year, the trading division's results are forecast to be higher than in 1987, and an improvement is expected in the insurance division."

The Swire figures topped off a week of results, which suggest corporate Hong Kong is in good shape. But the Hang Seng index fell 56 points to 2,464.83, after the rise in British base rates.



Guinness Mahon Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
Member of The Unit Trust Association, LAUTRO and IIMRO.

[illegible]

Cheer for savers on day of gloom

Some silver lining still attaches to the clouds in the mortgage

Many building societies are now offering discounts on larger loans. It is also possible to cut payments through schemes that defer interest. Care needs to be taken with these, however, because the rolled-up interest is added to the loan. If house prices do not move quickly enough it is possible that the borrower can end up owing more than the value of the house.

Many societies now offer "budget" mortgages, under which the monthly repayments are adjusted just once a year, taking in all the fluctuations in rates in the previous 12 months. This helps to cushion the blow. The Abbey National, the second largest society, does not offer this option at present but yesterday Charles Toner, general manager of operations, said the introduction of one of these schemes was being considered.

© Nationwide Anglia has become the first society to announce a Business Expansion Scheme fund linked to the rented housing market. The fund will invest in qualifying BES companies offering homes rented under the new assured tenancy arrangements. Nationwide expects to launch its scheme on September 15 and the fund is due to close on October 5.

Since July 1 unit trust companies have had the choice of dealing at historic or forward pricing. But if operating with historic pricing, they must halt dealings and revalue if the price of units moves more than 2 per cent since the last valuation. This happened on Thursday for the first time since the new regime was implemented. Companies forced to revalue said their systems had worked smoothly.

Under the new compensation scheme investors are intended to get up to £48,000 of their money back if an authorized firm fails.

Rothschild Asset Management Personal Pensions are linked to Unit Trusts.
The value of units can go down as well as up. TT27-08

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The High Interest Client Account, (HICLA), is for businesses controlling client funds.

The High Interest Cheque Account, (HICA), is for private investors, associations, charities and clubs. With this account a PREMIER VISA card is available, subject to status.

For an explanatory brochure, please telephone Jean Notman or David Carroll on 01-629 6802. Alternatively please FREEPOST the coupon.

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Wed and protected

The day we get married is traditionally the happiest of our lives. It is also the most expensive. Never again are we likely to spend so much money per hour as when we tie the nuptial knot.

Weddings are an ever-popular ritual. According to the latest statistics from the Office of Population Census and Surveys, 395,000 ceremonies were performed in 1986, and the signs are that we are spending more and more on them every year.

"The traditional white wedding with all the trimmings is very popular again," says Andrea Wicks, bridal director at Berkertex. "Most women are happy to spend twice as much as they originally intended once they see something that they like."

The biggest seller at Berkertex is a dress retailing at around £560, but last year the company introduced a designer dress service to meet the demand from women wishing to spend up to £5,000 - and it has proved a great success.

The dress however, is just the icing on the cake. What about the champagne, the caterers, the cars?

CHECKLIST

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Flowers x 2 | £300.00 |
| Bride's dress, veil etc | £900.00 |
| Bridesmaids' dresses | £300.00 |
| Groom's morning suit hire | £50.00 |
| Flowers | £150.00 |
| Rolls-Royce x 2 | £350.00 |
| Photographer | £500.00 |
| Video | £250.00 |
| Invitations x 2 | £25.00 |
| Order of service x 2 | £25.00 |
| Stamps x 50 | £5.50 |
| Off-duty reception, 100 guests, £15 a head | £1,500.00 |
| Extra champagne | £120.00 |
| Wedding cake | £200.00 |
| Dinner for evening | £90.00 |
| Church, organist, bells | £120.00 |
| Bridesmaids' presents | £30.00 |
| Honeymoon | £1,500.00 |
| Total | £8,424.00 |
| Costs average for a wedding with 100 guests | |

Amanda Constable's father spent £11,000 the day she married Bob, a City economist, in Oxford. "I wanted a small but elegant event," says Amanda, "but then Bob started inviting all his cousins and I retaliated by inviting all mine and before long we had 200 guests!"

"I felt my dress was the thing everyone would be looking at, so I didn't want to skimp."

Her satin dress with ornate lace and pearls cost around £2,000 from Gina Lorraine. Bob hired his suit from Moss Bros but could not resist splashing out on a £120 Terry Nutter waistcoat. The bride arrived at the church in a £275 hired carriage and pair, while two more Rolls-Royce Phantoms were laid on for the bridesmaids and family.

"The reception cost around £6,000, and £2,400 of that was on the champagne," says Amanda. "The biggest shock was that there were all sorts of hidden costs we hadn't thought of."

"Bob is Jewish, so we had a religious ceremony then another one in his parents' back garden, so we had to hire a marquee for that in case it rained. Then there was the extra £50 for the soprano who sang in church, £200 for the evening band, and, of course, we had to buy presents for the bridesmaids and their pearl necklaces cost £19.99 each."

Amanda and Bob rounded it all off with a seven-days-of-the-Raj-style trip on a Kashmiri houseboat, which cost them £838 each.

However, not everyone's father is a well-heeled businessman like Amanda's. Canny parents usually put something away for that special day and the best place is probably the building society, as there is no point in gambling on the Stock Exchange with your daughter's trousseau. Nevertheless, these days it is far more usual for the intending bride and groom to help to plan and pay for the wedding.

Last weekend at All Saints' Church in Sidcup, Kent, Lorraine Hawkins and Nick Perez, a trainee architect, exchanged vows. It was the culmination of 18 months' planning by Lorraine, a per-



Lorraine and Nick: The photographs were the biggest worry

sonal assistant in a market research company.

Lorraine says: "The first thing we booked was the church and I was amazed by how businesslike the vicar was. He offered me the cheapest do for £22.50 or the full works for £120. For that we got the choir and bellringers thrown in!"

The vicar also offered the services of his wife to do the church flowers for £80 but Lorraine decided to do them herself. For the bouquets and headresses she went to a local florist.

Nick and Lorraine paid around £700 for the bride's and bridesmaids' dresses, and also bought a sailor suit for the ring-bearer and paid for the church. Lorraine's parents paid for the reception.

Lorraine says: "The hardest part was finding somewhere we liked, which had the right atmosphere, at a realistic price. At first we were going to hire a local hall but the walls were such a horrible shade of blue that I couldn't bear it."

The eventual choice was an old pub and restaurant with a coach in the courtyard, which the couple thought would be ideal for photographs. Lorraine admits it was the photographs she was most worried about. "If they go wrong you have nothing to remember the day by," she says.

Her concern is not unfounded. Cases of photographers who open up the door of the dark room while developing pictures or even forget to put a film in their camera have been known.

The presents were another worry. "I had been to a friend's wedding and her presents were left in one room

Making a debt qualify as an asset

An article published last November, "Making an asset out of a debt", explained how endowment policies could be converted on maturity to "qualifying bonds" to provide a tax-free income. I recently asked about an insurance policy of mine which will mature on December 1. The reply seems to suggest that the policy would not fall within the definition of a qualifying bond, or am I misreading the information?

I would be glad of your advice.

PETER WALKER,
Broughton,
Preston,
Lancashire.

As you surmised, the endowment policy you have is with an insurance company that has not included the option, suggested in the article, to change it to a whole-of-life policy with nominal premiums. Therefore, this particular route would not appear to be available to you.

However, the objective indicated in the article was to apply the mortgage capital in a way that would produce a return greater than the net interest due. For example, it would still be possible to reinvest that capital with the primary objective of producing capital gains, and by utilizing your annual Capital Gains Tax exemption this could produce a useful tax-free "income". One investment medium similar to the insurance company unit fund that you could consider would be unit trusts.

If you wish to pursue this approach it is essential to take advice from an independent adviser who is properly recognized by one of the regulatory bodies under the Financial Services Act.

I'm losing because I live abroad

I wish you could explain to me the reason for the freezing of the retirement pension of those people who are now living in Australia. The pension is frozen at the rate which was extant at the time of

leaving. I have been in Australia for nearly eight years and my pension is still at the rate of £108 every four weeks. The Government no longer has to pay for medication, doctors' fees or periods in hospital, but they have to be paid for here. I am now 77 and can in no way earn any supplement.

F.E. STUBBS,
Tate Street,
South Perth,
Western Australia.

• The UK has reciprocal agreements with about 20 Commonwealth or foreign states. The specific rates differ from agreement to agreement, and some are more restricted than others. The agreement with Australia is limited. The various agreements normally cover questions of National Insurance contribution liabilities and benefit entitlements. Retirement pension can normally be paid anywhere abroad. However, if the pension is increased during your absence you will not get the increase unless you remain an "ordinarily resident" in the UK or you live in one of the following countries: Austria, Bermuda, Cyprus, Finland, Gibraltar, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Jamaica, Jersey, Malta, Mauritius, Sark, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States, Yugoslavia.

Do note, though, that if you do not get the increase while abroad, you will get the higher rate of pension if you return to or visit the UK. However, if you stay in the UK was only temporary the lower rate will again be paid when you leave. If you decide to return to the UK you should contact your social security office as soon as possible. Further details are available from the DHSS Overseas Branch, Newcastle upon Tyne NE96 1YX.

Dubious debiting

What possible incentive is there to have one's account debited instantaneously through the new-style debit cards now coming on to the market?

Moreover, the prospect of waiting at the moment of purchase, particularly towards the end of the month, while accounts are quizzed for solvency, is surely daunting.

This is another example of the conflict between what is possible and what is desirable.

If a delay in the actual transfer of funds, comparable with cheque payment, were built into the system, then a major objection on the part of the consumers would be removed. Failing that, a substantial discount for (very) prompt payment might be sufficient inducement for them to use their cards.

J.S. MOON,
Dorking,
Surrey.

• Readers' letters for publication are welcomed but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. Published replies marked with a triangle-type symbol are by Bill Peckar, tax partner at accountants Touche Pries, in association with The Times. However, no legal responsibility can be accepted for any advice or statements in these columns. Independent professional advice should be sought.

Hilary Doling

Portfolio
— PLUS NEW —
Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 27).

| Share | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Week |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 1 | +7 | +4 | +3 | +4 | +2 | | |
| 2 | +4 | +5 | +2 | +3 | +2 | | |
| 3 | +5 | +2 | +1 | +2 | +2 | | |
| 4 | +6 | +3 | +5 | +7 | +5 | | |
| 5 | +7 | +3 | +2 | +5 | +1 | | |
| 6 | +7 | +2 | +4 | +5 | +9 | | |
| 7 | +5 | +3 | +2 | +5 | -1 | | |
| 8 | +4 | +1 | +2 | +3 | +1 | | |
| 9 | +3 | +5 | +3 | +3 | +2 | | |
| 10 | +7 | +5 | +1 | +3 | +3 | | |
| 11 | +5 | +1 | +1 | +2 | +2 | | |
| 12 | +8 | +2 | +1 | +3 | +1 | | |
| 13 | +6 | +3 | +3 | +5 | +5 | | |
| 14 | +6 | +1 | +1 | +3 | +2 | | |
| 15 | +4 | +7 | +4 | +4 | -1 | | |
| 16 | +7 | +1 | +3 | +6 | +4 | | |
| 17 | +8 | +5 | +3 | +3 | +3 | | |
| 18 | +4 | +1 | +2 | +2 | -1 | | |
| 19 | +5 | +2 | +1 | +3 | -1 | | |
| 20 | +4 | +7 | +2 | +3 | +1 | | |
| 21 | +8 | +2 | +1 | +5 | +3 | | |
| 22 | +5 | +1 | +4 | +7 | +3 | | |
| 23 | +3 | +6 | +2 | +5 | +1 | | |
| 24 | +7 | +4 | +2 | +5 | +1 | | |
| 25 | +5 | +1 | +5 | +5 | +2 | | |
| 26 | +4 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | | |
| 27 | +7 | +4 | +2 | +3 | -1 | | |
| 28 | +3 | +5 | +2 | +3 | -1 | | |
| 29 | +6 | +1 | +1 | +2 | -1 | | |
| 30 | +5 | +2 | +3 | +5 | +3 | | |
| 31 | +4 | +5 | +4 | +4 | -1 | | |
| 32 | +4 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | | |
| 33 | +7 | +2 | +4 | +5 | +3 | | |
| 34 | +8 | +3 | +1 | +3 | -1 | | |
| 35 | +4 | +5 | +2 | +3 | +1 | | |
| 36 | +6 | +1 | +1 | +2 | -1 | | |
| 37 | +5 | +2 | +3 | +7 | +2 | | |
| 38 | +5 | +4 | +3 | +3 | +1 | | |
| 39 | +8 | +5 | +1 | +3 | +1 | | |
| 40 | +5 | +1 | +5 | +6 | +3 | | |
| 41 | +8 | +2 | +3 | +4 | -1 | | |
| 42 | +4 | +5 | +2 | +3 | -1 | | |
| 43 | +6 | +3 | +2 | +5 | +1 | | |
| 44 | +5 | +2 | +2 | +2 | -1 | | |

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The rates of interest applicable to all charge accounts are to be amended:

Where the current rate of interest is 2.0% per month if payment is made by direct debit, and 2.35% per month if paid by any other means, the new rates will be:

Where payment is by direct debit the monthly rate remains unchanged at 2.0% (equivalent to an APR of 26.8 for goods and services and an APR of 27.5 for cash and cash substitutes).

Where payment is by any other means the monthly rate will be 2.5% (equivalent to an APR of 34.4 for goods and services and an APR of 35.3 for cash and cash substitutes).

Where the current rate of interest is 2.2% per month if payment is made by direct debit, and 2.5% per month if paid by any other means, the new rates will be:

Where payment is by direct debit the monthly rate remains unchanged at 2.2% (equivalent to an APR of 29.8 for goods and services and an APR of 30.6 for cash and cash substitutes).

Where payment is by any other means the monthly rate will be 2.65% (equivalent to an APR of 36.8 for goods and services and an APR of 37.8 for cash and cash substitutes).

For all SELECT accounts the new rates will be: Where payment is by direct debit the monthly rate will be 2.0% (equivalent to an APR of 26.8 for goods and services and an APR of 27.5 for cash and cash substitutes).

Where payment is by any other means the monthly rate will be 2.6% (equivalent to an APR of 36.0 for goods and services and an APR of 37.0 for cash and cash substitutes).

These new rates of interest will apply to all statements issued on or after 4th October 1988, and will relate to all plus all new purchases debited since that statement. The Details of the Account in customers' Credit Agreements are varied in accordance with the provision of Clause 5 of those agreements.

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مكتبة الأصيل

FAMILY MONEY

The new income tactics

This year's Budget was a radical one. Walter Sinclair, a tax partner in chartered accountants Kidsons, and author of the *Allied Dunbar Tax Guide 1988-89*, offers some suggestions for handling the new rules

The re-election of the Conservatives on June 11, 1987, signalled four or five years of moderate taxation. Indeed, the first post-election Budget on March 15 was a cause for rejoicing among higher-rate taxpayers.

It drastically reduced income tax and Inheritance Tax rates and made important structural changes in Capital Gains Tax and, from April 1990, the taxation of husbands and wives.

You can now plan your taxes with greater confidence and can afford to take a longer-term view.

LONG-TERM TAX PLANNING: It is particularly important to take a long-term view on Inheritance Tax planning. Gifts made now will begin to qualify for relief from Inheritance Tax in four years' time. The rule is that if you survive for seven years after the gift is made there is no tax at all to pay. If you die within four to seven years, relief is given on a sliding scale. So by making a gift now you should improve the possibility of a lower Inheritance Tax bill, even if there is a change of government at the next election.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX RATES: The charging of Capital Gains Tax on individuals and some trusts at the same rates as income tax for 1988-89 has radically changed tax planning thinking. It is no longer so important that a top-rate taxpayer should seek capital gains rather than income. In general, both will be taxed at the same rate.

However, capital gains and income each have their own relief, to be maximized. Thus, if you have not used your £5,000 annual Capital Gains Tax exemption, you should aim to do so, rather

than obtaining more taxable income.

TAX ON HUSBANDS AND WIVES: Husbands and wives will be taxed separately from April 6, 1990. You can start preparing now. Split income-producing assets so that both spouses will use their full income tax personal reliefs, and basic-rate bands in appropriate situations. For example, shares in family companies might be transferred and subsequently dividends paid. Similarly, assets likely to produce capital gains should be owned by each spouse to enable the couple to use their respective £5,000 exemptions.

EQUALIZATION OF ASSETS OF HUSBAND AND WIFE: As well as helping to prepare for separate taxation in April 1990, equalizing the estates of husband and wife can produce Inheritance Tax advantages. Except for a very small number of cases no Inheritance Tax is payable on transfers between your spouse and yourself, either during your lives or on death.

As a general rule, do not keep all of your assets until you die and then leave them to your spouse. This may ultimately result in high Inheritance Tax on his or her death that is more than the com-

bined tax if your estates were equal and you each left your assets to your children.

Thus, suppose you have £220,000 and your wife has nothing. If you die first, leaving it all to her, no tax is then payable. But if she still has £220,000 when she dies and had made no previous transfers, the Inheritance Tax at the present rate will be £44,000, that is, 40 per cent of the amount liable above the current threshold, which in this case is £110,000.

If you had given or bequeathed your wife £110,000, however, and left your remaining £110,000 to your

children, no Inheritance Tax would be paid when you die.

Similarly, on your wife's death nothing would be paid so that altogether £44,000 of Inheritance Tax would be saved compared with the situation in which your wife inherits all your wealth.

DEEDS OF COVENANT: Subject to the rules, deeds of covenant effected after March 14, 1988, in favour of individuals produce no tax savings. This makes it all the more important to keep existing ones in force, such as those in favour of your grandchildren and student children. But do not forget that you still obtain tax relief on new deeds of covenant in favour of charities, covering both the basic and higher rates of income tax.

CARRYING BACK PERSONAL PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS: In view of the vast reduction in income tax rates for 1988-89, the rule allowing contributions paid on one tax year to be treated as paid in the previous one is most valuable. Thus, if you are a top-rate taxpayer with unused relief for 1987-88 you should elect for contributions paid in 1988-89 to be allocated to the earlier year. Relief will be 60 per cent instead of 40 per cent. In those circumstances, electing to carry back a £5,000 personal pension contribution would save you £1,000 income tax.

FLEXIBILITY: Finally, remember that, as ever, tax planning arrangements should be made in a flexible form. Substantial structural changes are expected in the coming years, and these may require new tax planning strategies.

"The Allied Dunbar Tax Guide 1988-89 will be published on Tuesday by Longman and will cost £13.50



Tax planning arrangements

BRIEFING

Last call to BP shareholders

This is the last reminder about payment of the second call on BP shares bought when the Government sold its remaining stake last year. By the end of this week a third of the 300,000 shareholders who bought shares in the issue still had not paid.

The money, 106p per share, must be in by 3pm next Tuesday. All investors should by now have received a call notice with an addressed envelope for returning the payment.

Anyone who has not received a notice should ring the National Westminster Bank Registrar's Department on 0272 306888. The line will be open until 2pm and again on Monday, the Bank Holiday, from 8.30am until 6pm.

Alternatively, says the Registrar's Department, shareholders can send a cheque with a covering note, including their full name and address, written in block letters, to the BP Share Offer, National Westminster Bank, New Issues Department, PO

Box 34, 153-157 Commercial Road, London E1 2EB. There will be a little flexibility over the deadline, says the department.

Offer to names

Stockbroker Credit Suisse Buckmaster & Moore can now issue guarantees to Lloyd's on behalf of clients who want to become names. Names must deposit securities with Lloyd's to the value of at least £50,000 or provide bank guarantees for a similar amount.

Credit Suisse Buckmaster & Moore is offering the service in conjunction with parent bank Credit Suisse. The only restriction is that high-quality stocks are held in the name's portfolio and that a minimum value is maintained. This minimum depends on the mixture of securities in the portfolio. The higher — twice the amount guaranteed by Credit Suisse — is required for portfolios made up solely or mainly of equities.

Now it's Exmoor

Exeter Fund Managers has hastily renamed its novel new investment trust this week.

Originally the trust, which is a split-level investment trust investing in other split-level trusts, was to be called Exeter Dual Investment Trust. Now it is to be called the Exmoor Dual Investment Trust. Ian Henderson, Exeter Fund Managers' chairman, said he had feared a possible legal wrangle with Exeter Trust, a commercial mortgage company that has raised questions about his company's use of the name Exeter.

Both companies say their discussions are amicable, and Douglas Macpherson, Exeter Trust's managing director, says that although he does believe the similarity of the two companies' names could create confusion, he hopes the matter can be worked out "on a friendly basis".

Exmoor Dual Investment Trust raised £16 million through a placing this week. Dealings are expected to start on September 2.

Third guide

A third edition of the GT Management guide to world equity markets is now available. The guide looks at 40 markets, including less well known ones such as Argentina and Venezuela, and gives

an overview of the climate in every market, highlighting features that the foreign investor needs to note. There are also a wealth of detailed information on taxation, broking rates and settlement systems and an analysis of the principal investors, five-year summaries of equity yields, price earnings ratios and share price indices.

The guide, available from GT Management, 8 Devonshire Square, London EC2, is aimed at the serious investor. The £75 price reflects this.

SIB deadline

The Office of Fair Trading has welcomed the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) announcement this week of a timetable for the introduction of rules on the disclosure of the commission and management costs of life assurance products. The aim of the rules is to give investors a clearer picture of how much of their money is being eaten up in management charges. The SIB intends to have the rules finalized by April 1989, allowing for a phasing period before they are implemented in January 1990.

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Address _____
Postcode _____
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RACING

Talented Then Again to take centre stage against younger rivals

By Mandarin

Then Again, one of the best milers in the country for the third successive season, is poised to gain his fourth crown by triumphing in the Waterford Crystal Mile at Goodwood this afternoon.

Although without a victory for more than 14 months, Luca Cumani's five-year-old is favourably treated by the race conditions and showed he was as good as ever when chasing home Warming in the Sussex Stakes over course and distance last month.

The son of Janzairo first showed top-class form when landing the Crystal Mile two seasons ago and fared even better last year when lifting the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury and the Queen Anne Stakes.

A close third to Waajib in the corresponding Royal Ascot event on his reappearance this season, Then Again, with Ray Cochrane again the saddle, is expected to reverse that form on 6lb better terms for a head and a neck defeat.

Steve Stewart's five-year-old is also well held on their form together in the Sussex Stakes where he finished fifth, 2 1/2 lengths behind Then Again, and is now 3lb worse off.

Doyoun and Magic Of Life represent the classic generation but there are slight question marks against both.

The former ran well up to a point when third in the Derby and sixth in the King George but seems sure to be better suited by today's distance. It is also worth remembering that Michael Stoute successfully brought Shaded back to a mile after an abortive Derby attempt three years ago.



Ray Cochrane: fancied ride on smart miler Then Again

On the debit side, though, the form of Doyoun's 2,000 Guineas has not worked out well with the placed horses, Charmant and Bellefleur (still a maiden), failing to achieve anything of note.

In addition, Doyoun is penalized 6lb for his classic success and, even without that disadvantage, the Mill Reef colt is held by my map on a line through Caerwent, who finished fifth in the 2,000 and sixth in the Sussex.

Magic Of Life, impressive when winning the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot, missed the back muscle and the old stage that horses with an interrupted preparation seldom win big races still holds good.

In any case, she is penalized 6lb for her group one Royal Ascot success and Jeremy Tree has already stated that she is using today's contest as part of her build-up

to next month's Queen Elizabeth II Stakes.

Prince Rupert and Intimidate, the other runners, do not look quite good enough, even on their very best form.

Three St. Leger outsiders - Zaffania, Mazzacano and Reef Lark - contest the March Stakes with my vote going to the progressive Zaffania, who looked a pattern horse in the making when landing two good handicaps in a week at Haydock and York last month. Golden Wave, not entered for the final classic, looks a lively threat.

Rotherfield Greys returns to the scene of his Stewards' Cup coup in the Sport On 2 Handicap after finishing a highly commendable eighth, beaten only seven lengths, in the William Hill Sprint Championship at York. The much-improved Ajanae appeals as the main danger.

Henry Cecil can improve on his already remarkable juvenile strike rate this season by winning all three races for two-year-olds at Newmarket with Knowna Ranger (2.0), Snow Bride (3.40) and Flight Of Destiny (4.10).

Windsor's final evening fixture of the year features a fascinating contest for the Winter Hill EBF Stakes with Rakyl, stepping up in distance, given a confident vote over Hibernian Gold, Nayrizi and Love The Groom, who is likely to need the race.

Over the jumps, it will be interesting to see how the useful stayer Sreak Preview fares on his debut over timber in the Dinmore Novices' Hurdle at Hereford.

Lingfield Park sale details - page 23

Course specialists

1. 10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-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Gomerie Set profit as finance falters

Platts agent
Card of the course
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1 425 9 10 180 4 4
2 450 9 11 170 5 4
3 460 9 12 160 6 4
4 470 9 13 150 7 4
5 480 9 14 140 8 4
6 490 9 15 130 9 4
7 500 9 16 120 10 4
8 510 9 17 110 11 4
9 520 9 18 100 12 4
10 530 9 19 90 13 4
11 540 9 20 80 14 4
12 550 9 21 70 15 4
13 560 9 22 60 16 4
14 570 9 23 50 17 4
15 580 9 24 40 18 4
16 590 9 25 30 19 4
17 600 9 26 20 20 4
18 610 9 27 10 21 4
19 620 9 28 0 22 4
20 630 9 29 0 23 4
21 640 9 30 0 24 4
22 650 9 31 0 25 4
23 660 9 32 0 26 4
24 670 9 33 0 27 4
25 680 9 34 0 28 4
26 690 9 35 0 29 4
27 700 9 36 0 30 4
28 710 9 37 0 31 4
29 720 9 38 0 32 4
30 730 9 39 0 33 4
31 740 9 40 0 34 4
32 750 9 41 0 35 4
33 760 9 42 0 36 4
34 770 9 43 0 37 4
35 780 9 44 0 38 4
36 790 9 45 0 39 4
37 800 9 46 0 40 4
38 810 9 47 0 41 4
39 820 9 48 0 42 4
40 830 9 49 0 43 4
41 840 9 50 0 44 4
42 850 9 51 0 45 4
43 860 9 52 0 46 4
44 870 9 53 0 47 4
45 880 9 54 0 48 4
46 890 9 55 0 49 4
47 900 9 56 0 50 4
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56 990 9 65 0 59 4
57 1000 9 66 0 60 4
58 1010 9 67 0 61 4
59 1020 9 68 0 62 4
60 1030 9 69 0 63 4
61 1040 9 70 0 64 4
62 1050 9 71 0 65 4
63 1060 9 72 0 66 4
64 1070 9 73 0 67 4
65 1080 9 74 0 68 4
66 1090 9 75 0 69 4
67 1100 9 76 0 70 4
68 1110 9 77 0 71 4
69 1120 9 78 0 72 4
70 1130 9 79 0 73 4
71 1140 9 80 0 74 4
72 1150 9 81 0 75 4
73 1160 9 82 0 76 4
74 1170 9 83 0 77 4
75 1180 9 84 0 78 4
76 1190 9 85 0 79 4
77 1200 9 86 0 80 4
78 1210 9 87 0 81 4
79 1220 9 88 0 82 4
80 1230 9 89 0 83 4
81 1240 9 90 0 84 4
82 1250 9 91 0 85 4
83 1260 9 92 0 86 4
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94 1370 9 103 0 97 4
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96 1390 9 105 0 99 4
97 1400 9 106 0 100 4
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